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# THE TIMES

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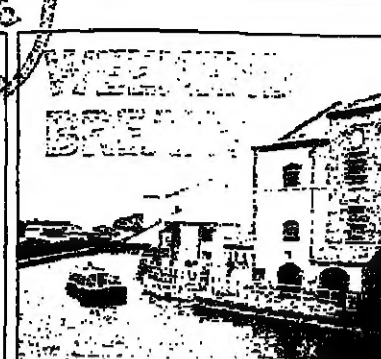
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**SAVE UP TO £129 AT FORTE HOTELS**

Widdecombe accuses 'man whose reaction to attack is denial and semantic prestidigitation'

## Savaging for Howard's Tory hopes

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

ANN WIDDECOMBE, the former Prisons Minister, dealt a severe blow to Michael Howard's Conservative leadership ambitions yesterday by accusing him of misleading the House of Commons and mishandling the sacking of Derek Lewis as head of the prison service.

In an impassioned 40-minute speech to MPs, Miss Widdecombe drew startled gasps as she delivered a lengthy personal attack on the former Home Secretary, whom she has admitted she wants to stop winning the Tory crown.

She described him as a man whose "first reaction to attack is denial and semantic prestidigitation".

Standing two benches behind an impassive Mr Howard, who was sitting on the front bench and was due to speak later on, Miss Widdecombe used internal Home Office documents to flesh out her repeated claims that Mr Howard had not spent out the full truth about the transfer of John Marriott, the governor of Parkhurst prison, in the wake of the breakout of three top security prisoners in January 1995.

Mr Howard's supporters immediately claimed that Miss Widdecombe had said little new in her onslaught and that his leadership hopes would have been helped by the fact that the issue could now be brought to a close.

"Michael emerges strengthened from all of this. He is still a serious contender to lead the

party," one of his senior aides said. But that was not the view of many Conservative MPs who felt that the public dispute had been deeply damaging not only to him but to the party.

Accusing Mr Howard of demeaning his office by indulging in wordplay, that might be "unsustainable", Miss Widdecombe alleged that the official report into the escape had been Mr Howard's pretext rather than his reason for sacking Mr Lewis. She claimed that there was "evidence within the Home Office that he had wanted to rid himself of Derek Lewis over a very long period and certainly before the production of the report".

She declared that she wished that she had resigned over the affair herself. Reading from a closely-typed script, Miss Widdecombe's main charges against Mr Howard were:



Derek Lewis: sacking caused bitter dispute

□ That in spite of Mr Howard telling the Commons in October 1995 that he had not personally told Mr Lewis that the Parkhurst governor should be suspended, there was ample documentary evidence that he did in fact do so.

She quoted a note to her from a senior civil servant saying "this was the subject of the worst disagreement. The Home Secretary wanted suspension, Derek Lewis adamantly refused."

Miss Widdecombe said: "I say categorically to the House today that the documents in the department and the recollection of the civil servants and ministers concerned is that Derek Lewis was told that the governor of Parkhurst should be suspended that he was told to take time to reconsider his decision when he refused."

□ That in spite of Mr Howard's categorical statement that there had been no question of overruling Mr Lewis on Mr Marriott's future, there was again documentary evidence that Mr Howard had taken advice on whether he could instruct Mr Lewis to suspend him. After consultation with the Cabinet Office he was told that he could not.

Miss Widdecombe mocked Mr Howard for 14 times failing to deny that he had tried to overrule Mr Lewis over Mr Marriott's dismissal in a BBC2 Newsnight interview last week. She said the difficulty for Mr Howard was that he had been unable to tell the House the truth because of his insistence that he was



Michael Howard listens impassively as Ann Widdecombe, just behind him, delivers her 40-minute onslaught on his handling of the prison service



Ann Widdecombe, just behind Michael Howard, delivers her 40-minute onslaught on his handling of the prison service

responsible only for policy, not for operations.

He could have admitted to the House that he had pressured Mr Lewis into dismissing Mr Marriott but "he could not do so, of course, because he had dug a hole for himself over policy and operations and he would never have had to dig such a hole had he been prepared to keep the director-general in place".

Miss Widdecombe said last night that she had received a mixed response. Some colleagues told her that she had been right to speak her mind;

others said that the party could have done without it.

Her attack on Mr Howard was cool and savage. She described him as someone "looking for scapegoats" and as a man lacking the courage to stick by his public servants when the going got tough.

"Can he really not take responsibility for what he said?" she asked the House. "He has made much of how he is the one to take tough decisions. Tough decisions concern a great deal more than instant law and instant dismissals. Courage and

toughness are both more than instant law and instant dismissal.

"We demean our high office if we mistreat our public servants. We demean ourselves if we come to this House and indulge in a play of words which... may be unsustainable," she said.

Miss Widdecombe said that she had agonised for months over whether to go public with her concerns over the affair.

"But I came to the view that I could do no other. In the interests of giving very belated justice to Mr Lewis and some

comfort to his wife who supported him faithfully, while he gave us seven days a week looking after the prison service.

"To clear to a certain extent my own conscience, although that is my problem, I should have resigned at the time and I didn't. But also to bring to this House's attention the necessity that whoever is Leader of the Opposition, he, together with the new Prime Minister, must clean up the image of Parliament in the eyes of the British people.

"It is not enough to preserve

our own positions at all costs, when we occupy high positions and certainly, in justice departments, justice must be our first concern."

She said that she was aware that some Conservatives would not forgive her for what she had done. "But I'm also aware that if I hadn't done what I have done today, I wouldn't have forgiven myself."

The allegations, page 4  
Peter Riddell, page 4  
Leading article  
and letters, page 23

### Barclays chief to lead tax shake-up

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, is to lead a team to integrate tax and social security benefits.

He will be responsible for co-ordinating across departments a plan of the Chancellor's. His appointment is intended to bring more business experience into government. Pages 2, 31

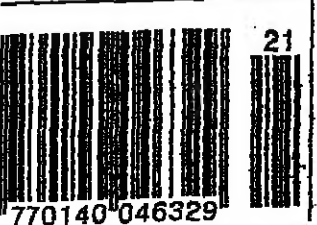
### Himmler plan for Bayeux Tapestry

Heinrich Himmler, the German SS chief, planned to remove the Bayeux Tapestry from Paris a week before the Allied liberation of the city.

A message sent on August 18, 1944 to an SS officer was intercepted and decoded by the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park. Page 8

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## Cigarette adverts ban could kill top British sports events

By Ian Murray and Carol Midgley

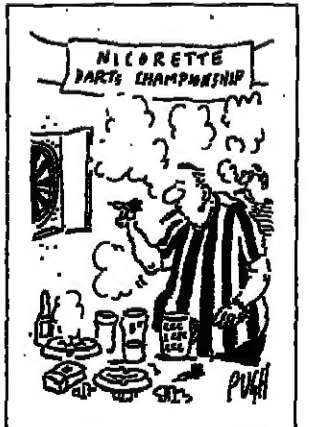
TOP sports events could be forced out of Britain or left impoverished if a Government pledge to outlaw the sponsorship of sport by cigarette manufacturers goes ahead, organisers said last night.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, announced earlier that sports sponsorship would be affected by draft legislation to ban tobacco advertising. He told the Royal College of Nursing annual conference at Harrogate, North Yorkshire, that a Bill would be published in the summer but it would be phased in slowly to allow the sports to find alternative sponsors.

The tobacco industry provides £8 million of the £350 million sponsorship enjoyed by British sport but for some events it is crucial. Rugby League, snooker and darts

would be worst affected. Equestrianism has yet to find a replacement after Silk Cut pulled out of the Derby at Hickstead. Snooker is short of sponsors for some of its championships and less high profile sports such as ice hockey and angling also fear they would struggle to find new sponsors.

Mr Dobson said the ban



would extend to the logos of tobacco companies appearing on cars in international motor racing events, although he was not sure whether the racing colours used by some sponsors would have to be changed.

"A lot of the details have to be worked out. Some of the rules introduced in other countries haven't worked out which is one reason we are introducing a draft Bill so that we can get something which will really do the trick."

It is also not clear how slowly the ban would be phased in. Some tobacco brands have contracts until 2000. Regal will support the Scottish Masters snooker until 2000 and Benson & Hedges has agreed to sponsor the ice hockey knockout competition until 1999.

Broadcasters were also

Continued on page 2, col 4  
Rob Hughes, page 53

## Lottery grants for Palestinian projects

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

THE first National Lottery grants to be awarded to good causes overseas include more than £3 million of politically sensitive awards to human rights projects and education schemes for Palestinians.

The £25 million of grants, announced yesterday by the National Lottery Charities Board, include £756,650 to Amnesty International for a project to increase awareness of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Nearly £500,000 was awarded to the Westminster Foundation for Democracy to help human rights cases in Africa.

The Friends of Birzeit University received £200,000 to help and educate disadvantaged groups within Palestinian society and the Friends of the Spafford Childrens Centre of Jerusalem got £97,600 to help Palestinian children with behavioural and learning difficulties.

Timothy Hornsby, chief executive of the board, said that all the spending on human rights projects would be closely monitored. "Around 12 per cent of the £25 million we are giving out is going towards human rights projects. It is obviously a very delicate area, but there's a long tradition of expertise with organisations such as Amnesty International," he said.

Most of the grants announced yesterday, accounting for 40 per cent of the total, are to welfare projects. Women and girls get 46 per cent of the money.

The biggest grant, just over £1 million, goes to ActionAid towards a four-year project in the Mubende district of Uganda to help 125 education centres for 10,000 children who do not attend school.

## Everything's lovely in my garden, says Major

By Damian Whitworth

WHEN John and Norma Major showed no signs of flagging after four hours trailing round the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday it became clear that this was more than a social visit.

The lengthy questioning of exhibitors about the most technical matters and the accumulation of a mountain of catalogues indicated that this former prime minister intends to spend a lot

more time tending his borders. With the cares of office behind him, explained a friend last night, Mr Major is planning to extend the garden at his Huntingdon home into the orchard which forms a substantial part of his two-acre grounds.

In particular he and Norma are planning a second pond after the success of the first, installed last year. Mr Major once described to Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown how he had put

suncream on his goldfish during last summer's hot spell. "He has come to gardening fairly recently. He found it the perfect antidote to the stresses of the job," said the friend. "The garden came to mean more to him when he was Prime Minister."

Mr Major, however, was not passing on green-fingered hints himself. Although it was Press Day he was not talking. He had more important things to concentrate on. "Why are you inter-

ested in me anyway," he said. "I'm yesterday's news."

The show entertained its greatest ever horde of celebrities including David Hockney, the French screen siren Catherine Deneuve, the model Linda Evangelista and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Later the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh made a private visit with the Princess Royal.

Back-garden beauty, page 5

### Mortgages especially for directors and the self employed

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Mortgage flexibility for business people

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# Barclays chief to lead Whitehall Task Force



Taylor began work as financial journalist

MARTIN TAYLOR, the chief executive of Barclays Bank, was yesterday named to lead one of the most ambitious task forces announced by the Government. The 44-year-old Old Etonian will be the unpaid head of the new Whitehall Task Force.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said that Mr Taylor will examine tax and benefits "to deliver the Government's pledge to streamline and modernise the system to fulfil the objectives of promoting work incentives, reducing poverty and welfare dependency, and strengthening community and family life".

Mr Taylor, a former journalist, chief executive of Courtalds and non-executive director of WH Smith, will lead the drive to promote work incentives, to reduce

Brown picks Old Etonian to tackle tax and benefits, report Robert Miller and Jill Sherman

poverty and welfare dependency, and to strengthen community and family life. He read Oriental languages at Balliol College, Oxford, before beginning his working life as a financial journalist with Reuters, stationed in London, Paris and Frankfurt. He later moved to the Financial Times before joining Courtalds, the chemicals company.

He rose to become chief executive of the textiles side before being head-hunted to join Barclays in August 1993.

In his new job, involving about two days a month, he will work closely with Frank Field, the new

Social Security Minister who is looking at longer-term plans to review the benefits and pensions system.

Mr Taylor, who last year earned a package worth £820,000, which included a one-off special bonus, faces a daunting job. He must unite four of Whitehall's largest and most complex ministries and agencies in the Treasury and the Inland Revenue as well as the Education and Social Security Departments. The project is expected to last for about a year.

Mr Brown said of Mr Taylor's role: "It is another example of our new way of working. Governments

in the past have been least good at issues which span departments... Today's appointment harnesses the drive of the private sector to the expertise of government departments to streamline both our tax and benefit systems."

Mr Brown added: "I am delighted that Martin will lead this work. We made it a priority in our manifesto, and Martin will bring to it a first-rate mind and ability to find practical solutions that make a long-term difference."

Mr Taylor said: "I am thrilled to be given the chance to contribute something positive. Our first job will be to decide on the composition

of the task force, which will be drawn from senior civil servants in the relevant departments. Barclays has been very supportive of my new role."

Patrick Ebraut, a national officer of Unifi, the Barclays staff union, said: "We are very pleased that Mr Taylor has been chosen for this very important task force. We hope that Barclays will introduce a minimum wage of £4.10 an hour."

Tonight Mr Brown will use his address to the CBI's annual dinner at Grosvenor House to underline Labour's determination to work with business. He will also announce that the CBI has agreed to

be a member of a joint working party with the Government to consult on how best to complete the European single market.

He will reassure his audience that he is not in favour of quick fixes. "With a Labour Government there will be no danger of growth on an unsustainable basis, no risk taking with inflation and no quick fixes," he will say.

His fiscal policy, to be outlined shortly in the Budget, would address the long-term needs of the British economy. "I have set tough rules for government borrowing and for spending and I will publish a plan for deficit reduction in the medium term," he will say.

City comment, page 51

## Leadership must be settled soon, says senior Tory

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

SIR ARCHIE HAMILTON, a leading contender for the chairmanship of the Conservative 1992 backbench committee, warned last night against any delay over choosing a new leader for the party.

Sir Archie advised against any change in the rules to involve party activists this time, but suggested that the winner should be subject to an early vote of the party membership at a special conference.

Nominations close today for the influential post of chairman, a job that has to be filled before the party leadership contest can formally begin. The election of the 1992 chairman takes place tomorrow and up to five candidates are expected to stand.

John Major has made clear that he wants his successor to be elected as early as possible, and it was hoped that the first ballot could be held at the beginning of June. But MPs are under pressure from the National Union of Conserva-

tive and Unionist Associations, which represents party activists, to change the rules of the contest immediately.

One option being mooted is that a caretaker leader could step in until a new system has been sorted out. Tom King, the former Defence Secretary, said yesterday that he would be prepared to consider this role. Other senior MPs believe that an interim system could be put in place to give party chairmen a say, while still allowing the election to be held in June.

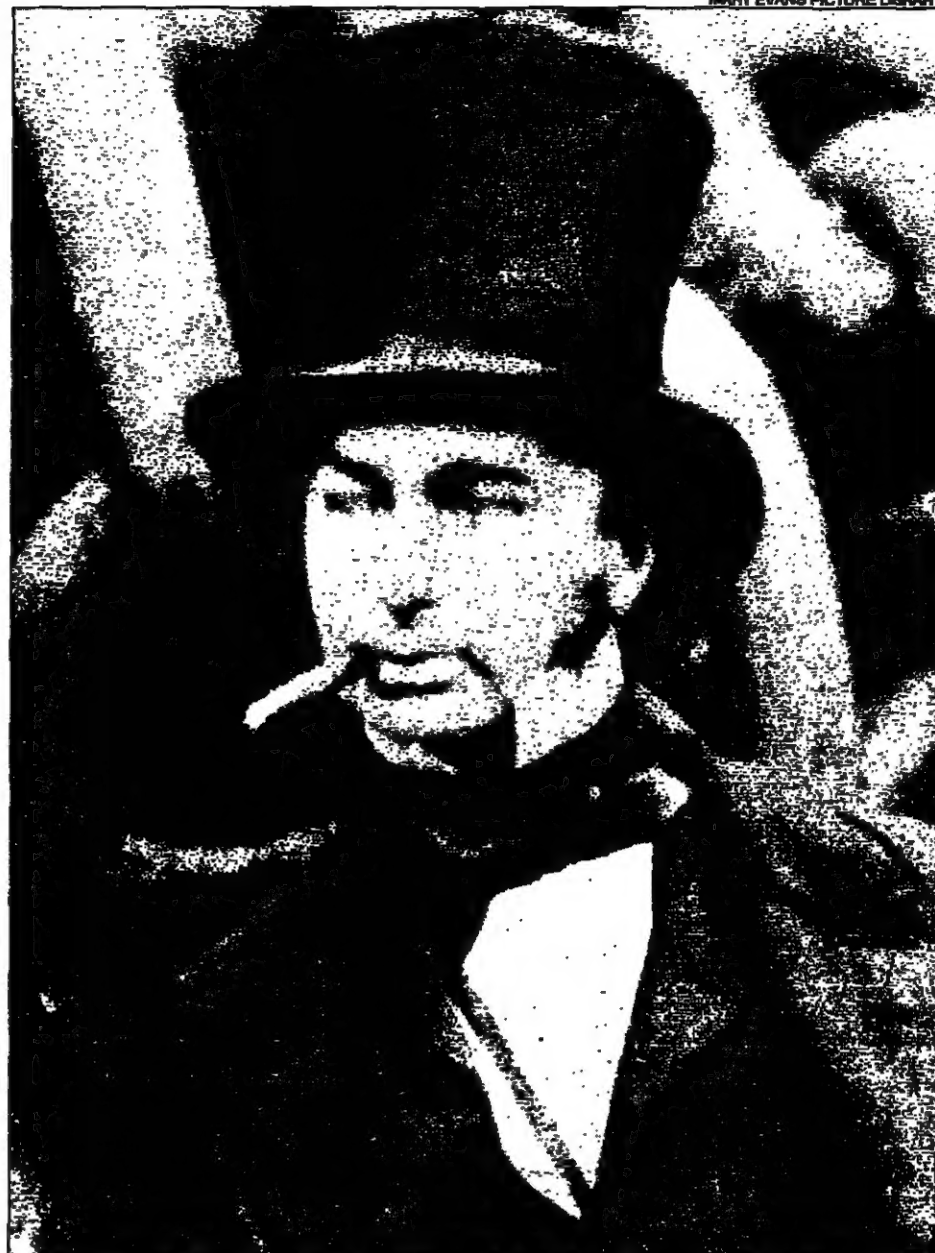
Sir Archie, a former Tory defence minister, wrote to all Tory backbenchers warning them of the dangers of postponing the election. He referred to the damaging allegations made by Ann Widdecombe in the Commons against Michael Howard. "The acrimonious exchanges we have witnessed to date reflect badly on the party as a whole and lead many to feel that we should settle it sooner rather than later," he said.

"However, if enough colleagues feel that delay is desirable, they must put up a stop-gap candidate who undertakes, if elected, to stand down as leader after a set period of, say, a year. Then the rest of us would have to dig in for the next 12 months while the campaign to decide who should really lead the party raged on."

Other expected challengers for the chairmanship of the 1992 committee include John MacGregor, John Butterfill, and John Townend. Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith is still considering his position.

Robin Hodgson, chairman of the national union, has threatened to run his own leadership ballot of the 894 senior figures in local associations, including 659 party chairmen, and publish the results, unless immediate changes are made to give activists 20 per cent of the vote in the forthcoming contest.

Leading article, page 23



Isambard Kingdom Brunel will keep his cigar in signs promoting Neyland

## Brunel nearly loses cigar to political correctness

By Michael Horsnell

A PASSION for cigars by Isambard Kingdom Brunel has sparked a dispute over the political correctness of using the great Victorian engineer's image to promote a small Welsh fishing town.

Brunel used Neyland in Pembrokeshire as the terminus for his steamships on the Irish sea route, but recent plans to use his likeness to revitalise the town have come unstuck in the local council chamber.

Some councillors thought the cigar-smoking image might encourage youngsters to take up the deadly weed, even though they recognised that there was no better man than Brunel to stimulate the local economy and encourage tourism.

The first phase in the plan,

for which Pembrokeshire County Council earmarked £10,000, was to highlight Neyland's links with Brunel through road signs.

Brace Harvatt, media consultants in Haverfordwest, came up with a chocolate and cream scheme to duplicate the colours of Brunel's Great Western Company. His portrait in stovepipe hat and cigar was then added to the road signs to be placed at the entrance to the town.

"There was concern at the general purposes committee about the cigar and the kind of message we were sending out in the light of the Government's proposed ban on advertising cigarettes," council member Ken Edwards said. "There we were, promoting Neyland with a man

with a cigar in his mouth. Although I'm an occasional cigar smoker myself, in the context of what we know now about smoking it's something you cannot ignore."

But fellow council members were quick to defend the striking artwork. Simon Hancock said: "I think it was taking political correctness a little to extremes." His views were shared by a majority and, when the matter was discussed at a subsequent meeting of the full council, earlier concerns were swept aside and it was decided to accept Brunel as he was.

"The signs can do nothing but enhance the image of the town and I cannot imagine anyone would take them as an advertisement for smoking," Mr Hancock said.

## Tobacco adverts and sport

Continued from page 1 waiting to see whether the legislation would prevent coverage on British screens of hundreds of events in countries where tobacco sponsorship is not banned.

Announcing the ban, Mr Dobson dismissed claims by the companies that advertising and sponsorship served merely to encourage existing smokers to change brands rather than to entice new customers. He said the legislation was part of a concerted programme to reduce tobacco

consumption "using every possible lever of government".

"We recognise that some sports, like smokers, are heavily dependent on tobacco sponsorship," he said. "We do not wish to harm these sports. We will therefore give them time and help to reduce their dependency on the weed and replace it with sponsorship from more benign sources."

Mr Dobson was cheered by the 1,500 delegates. Christine Hancock, the college's general secretary, said: "We are absolutely delighted. Tobacco is the

single worst cause of preventable death. It is a disgrace that no Government until now has taken appropriate measures on this significant issue."

Sir Rodney Walker, chairman of the English Sports Council and the Rugby League, said many sports would have trouble finding alternative sponsors and Robert Holmes, chairman of the British Darts Organisation, said: "Darts is under threat - it's a huge blow."

Rob Hughes, page 53

## Sinn Fein pair make a meal of visit to Commons

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

GERRY ADAMS and Martin McGuinness made a stage-managed appearance at Westminster yesterday ensuring maximum publicity for Sinn Fein on the eve of local government elections in Northern Ireland.

The two newly elected Sinn Fein MPs arrived 36 hours before an official ban takes effect. Until then, they are allowed to use the facilities of the Palace and yesterday they were provided with a glimpse of all that would be on offer if they were to swear the Oath of Allegiance to the Queen.

The MPs for Mid Ulster and West Belfast walked through the members lobby, passed the statues of Winston Churchill and Lloyd George and, accompanied by Tony Benn, walked through the empty chamber and passed the dispatch box.

After lunch, the two visited the Commons terrace to sample its unrivalled views of the River Thames. The Sinn Fein MPs paced up and down as they waited for TV cameras to film them from Westminster Bridge but left after more than 20 minutes when they were told the Radio Telefís Éireann crew had been unable to get to the bridge because of building work.

As he left the terrace, Mr Adams said: "It's the most restful period we have had for 25 years."

The MPs held more than two hours of meetings with Peter Jennings, the Sergeant at Arms, and Donald Limon, Clerk of the House, about the restrictions imposed by Miss Boothroyd. Mr Adams said: "We are here in the first place to challenge what we see as a discriminatory measure being taken against people who voted for our party. As far as we are concerned the new restrictions are arrogant, they are anti-democratic."

Mr McGuinness said that the meetings with Commons officials had been "courteous" and "civilised" and that they had been told that the restrictions imposed on them would not interfere with their right to represent their constituents in dealing with the government.

Last night Mo Mowlam, the secretary of state for Northern Ireland, accused the MPs of engaging in a propaganda exercise. She said: "This is propaganda in my mind, it is about media headlines. If they would be a voice then they are not, they don't want to be in the House, they just want to get an office and the other bits."

Robert Saulters, Grand Master of the Protestant Orange Order, denied yesterday that he had agreed to meet republicans to discuss July's loyalist parade at Drumcree, Co Armagh. He insisted that he would not meet anyone linked to Sinn Fein and the IRA. John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, claimed on Sunday that he had brokered the talks, and said he had cleared his statement with Mr Saulters.

## Schoolgirl rape victim withdrawn from class

Parents of a 14-year-old schoolgirl rape victim have withdrawn their daughter from lessons after learning that her alleged attacker, aged 15, was allowed back to sit his exams without their knowledge. North Tyneside education authority defended the decision, saying the boy's bail conditions did not prevent him taking exams provided he was under supervision. But the girl's father said yesterday: "Surely in a case like this the accused shouldn't be allowed to go anywhere near the victim? Some of her friends said he was found wandering alone."

## Princess returns

Diana, Princess of Wales is to make her second visit to help raise funds for a cancer hospital founded by the former cricketer Imran Khan in Lahore, Pakistan. The private three-day visit begins on Thursday, said a spokesman for the Shaikat Khanum Memorial Hospital. The Princess will be guest of honour at a dinner on Saturday.

## Caning escape

Two British servicemen threatened with the cane for robbing a taxi driver in Singapore could be handed over to the British military authorities. Unconfirmed reports said it had been agreed that Royal Marine Richard Britten, 22, from Plymouth, and Craftsman John King, 20, from Alford, Aberdeenshire, could face a British court martial.

## Historic hearing

Cher Booth, QC, created her own piece of history yesterday when she became the first female Minister's wife to sit as a judge. Assistant Recorder Booth, QC, sat in the 13th-century Mayor's and City of London Court hearing the case of a worker suing his former bosses. British Aerospace, for £7,000 damages over a hernia he had suffered at work.

## Pigeon reprieve

Plans to revoke the licence of Trafalgar's only bird-seed seller have been abandoned. Westminster City Council said yesterday that it had failed to persuade the Department of National Heritage to sanction the removal of the stall. The proposal was seen as a way of reducing the square's pigeon population by removing the birds' main food supply.

## Virgins celebrate

Fifteen consecrated virgins gathered at Plymouth Cathedral to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the revival of the rite, whose followers live in the community rather than in religious orders as nuns. The service for the Roman Catholic lay women aged 21 to 65 included Elizabeth Bailey, 64, who in 1972 became the first consecrated virgin in Britain since the 3rd century.

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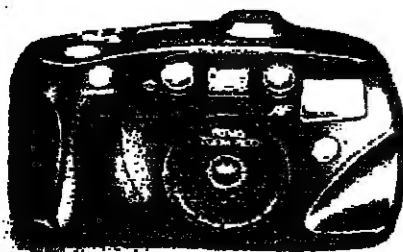
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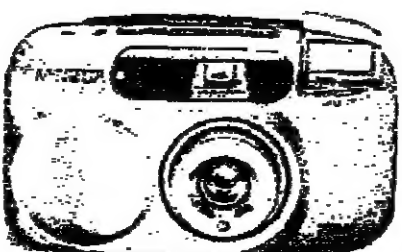


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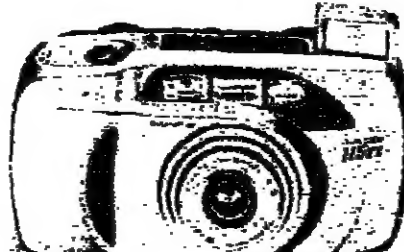
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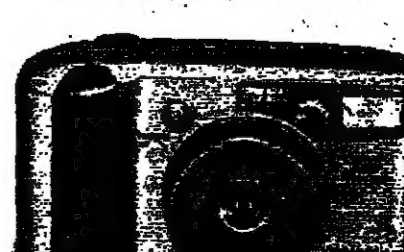
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# Nurses taken to Saudi murder court in shackles

By DANIEL MCGRORY

TWO British nurses accused of murdering a colleague appeared in court in Saudi Arabia yesterday manacled at the ankles.

Lucille McLauchlan, 31, and Deborah Parry, 41, shuffled uncomfortably in their iron shackles from a prison van into a side entrance of the court for the start of their trial. Both wore traditional black chadors and were flanked by a dozen armed police officers.

Ms McLauchlan, from Dundee, and Ms Parry, from Alton in Hampshire, looked frightened and confused as they were led before three Sharia judges in the Islamic court at Al Khobar. The only time the women spoke was to plead not guilty to murdering Yvonne Gilford, when the charges were read to them in Arabic and English.

The pressure group, Fair Trials Abroad Trust, said there was no need for "ankle shackles and such harsh and inhuman behaviour". Amnesty described it as a form of ill treatment.

British diplomats who were allowed to attend yesterday's two-hour hearing at the Eastern District Supreme Court said they did not intend to protest. The women were allowed to speak to William Patey, the British Consul General, who said they had made no complaints about their treatment. Their only anxiety was how long the proceedings might last.

British officials are wary of creating any diplomatic incident with the Saudis, who were sensitive to criticism of their legal system ahead of the trial, which is expected to last until late in the summer.

A diplomatic source said: "The use of ankle restraints is not common just to Saudi Arabia." He pointed to the case of Louise Woodward, the British nanny accused of killing a month-old baby in her care, who was taken to court in Boston in ankle braces. "This form of restraint is used for all transit prisoners in Saudi Arabia. They were not handcuffed."

Stephen Jackson, of Fair



McLauchlan, accused of killing Gilford, below



Trials Abroad said: "We cannot keep silent as, after all, did not Foreign Secretary Robin Cook say that human rights must now be at the heart of British diplomacy? There was no need for the Saudis to behave in this way. These women were hardly going to escape. It is very unusual to shackle women, not even the Saudis do it. I've seldom come across it before, even in harsh Third World countries."

A spokesman for Amnesty said: "Shackling may be a form of ill treatment and it is disturbing to hear that they had been shackled unless there is a legitimate reason for it. But it would be hard to imagine what that might be. We will be watching the case very closely."

The women could be be-

headed in public if they are convicted of murdering their nursing supervisor, a 55-year-old Australian charge nurse. She was found bloodied and stabbed to death in her bedroom at the King Fahd military medical complex.

The nurses have been in prison at Dammam for six months after, at first, confessing to murdering Miss Gilford in what local investigators say was a dispute over a lesbian relationship and borrowed money. Their Saudi lawyer, Salah al-Hejailan, has told the court that the women have since retracted the confessions, which he said were only made on the promise that they would be freed from custody and deported.

Miss Gilford's body was found in her room on December 11. The authorities maintain the two nurses were later followed to a shopping precinct where one was seen to draw money on Miss Gilford's stolen bank card.

A British diplomat who was in court later telephoned the women's families about the proceedings, which were adjourned until today.

A diplomatic source in Saudi Arabia said last night: "We cannot give the family much more detail as we don't know quite how this trial will progress. We had been told that this first session would last no more than a few hours and then be re-opened for a fair while but both women have to return tomorrow."

"We are standing by to help their families in any way and if they wish to go to Saudi Arabia we will do everything we can. Both women are in good health, although they are obviously nervous."

The nurses' lawyer said the preliminary hearing was to cover issues such as power of attorney and to agree the dates for future hearings.

"They will fix a date for the prosecutor to read his report and 'outline' the list of evidence," he said. "We will be getting a copy of that and then we will respond to each piece of evidence. We may need many hearings for that."



The Rev Val Hamer modelling a chasuble designed by Jacqui Binns, depicting Christ harrowing Hell

## Clergy glory in heavenly creations

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Church gave fashion its blessing yesterday when ten clergy showed off vestments created by some of Britain's top clerical wear designers. The first fashion parade for ministers was billed as a showcase for "All things bright and beautiful" in new and traditional albs, stoles and copes.

The Rev Val Hamer symbolised that blessing when she raised her hands aloft at a preview while modelling a £350 green chasuble. Mrs Hamer, vicar of St Mildred's at Addiscombe, Surrey, said: "I hope people will see from this that a vestment has meaning. My chasuble depicts Christ harrowing Hell and it is beautiful."

The Rev Mike Starkey, 34, strode down the catwalk in one of the most colourful clerical copes in Creation. Mr Starkey, priest-in-charge of St John's, Finsbury Park, north London, is the brother of the fashion model Helen Starkey.

Mr Starkey lifted his arms, revealing the splendour of his cope, named "Genesis", and turned for an elegant exit, marching in tune to the Christian rap music of World Wide Message Tribe.

The Rev Andrew Roberts, a Methodist minister from the West Midlands, modelled a black coat-cum-trouser suit, its front lapels glittering with embroidery. From his designer's studio to his media-aware poses, he was the show-stealer, and had designed the suit himself. "Red, orange and yellow are the colours of the Holy Spirit and the blue and green are the colours of baptism," he said.

"The suit has caused a lot of comment when I have worn it for weddings and other services. I feel it says the Church is relevant to the modern world."

The show, which was previewed to the media yesterday, is open to the public today and tomorrow at the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey.

## New look is goal for Delia

By PETER FORSTER

DELIA SMITH, not content with raising standards in the burger bars at Norwich City football club, has begun work on her players' dress sense.

The chef and author, who became a director of the club last year, has commissioned a new football strip from the fashion designer Bruce Oldfield. "All the other kits looked baggy, scruffy and out of date so it was time for a change," Mrs Smith said.

Mr Oldfield, who quietly admits to being a Middlesbrough fan, designed the strip by fax while working in Barbados.

## Drivers en route to shares bonanza on the buses

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BUS drivers who joined a buy-out of their company three years ago are set to take profits of up to £62,000 each from a merger.

Staff on Brighton's Blue Bus network are planning spending sprees on the strength of the £5.7 million deal. One senior manager is believed to be gaining more than £400,000.

More than 200 members of staff bought 10p shares in the management and employee buy-out of the company. A rival firm, the Brighton and Hove Bus Company, run by the large Let's Go group, is buying shares at £1.80.

Ray Mills, a driver who

stands to gain £62,000, said: "Obviously, I am very pleased to have the money but I won't be going mad with it." He plans a holiday in Canada but expects to put most of his profit into investments for his retirement.

Mr Mills bought 20,000 shares, netting him a £34,000 profit. He later took the chance to buy a further £2,000 worth, delivering an additional bonus of some £28,000.

However, he still has some regrets over the demise of the small bus company. "Derogation of the buses gave the chance for small companies to grow and then we find that the big companies take over," said

Mr Mills, who has been with the company for ten years.

Staff members who bought the minimum 10,000 shares at 10p a share expect to secure a £17,000 profit over three years. Shareholders are expected tonight to approve the merger at an extraordinary general meeting that will pave the way for the two companies, which have about 360 drivers between them, to merge. Administrative staff fear some redundancies, however. One secretary said: "It's fine for those who have shares but for the rest of us it is going to be a nerve-racking few days."

Business, pages 29-35

## Vice boss jailed with tributes for running the flower of his trade

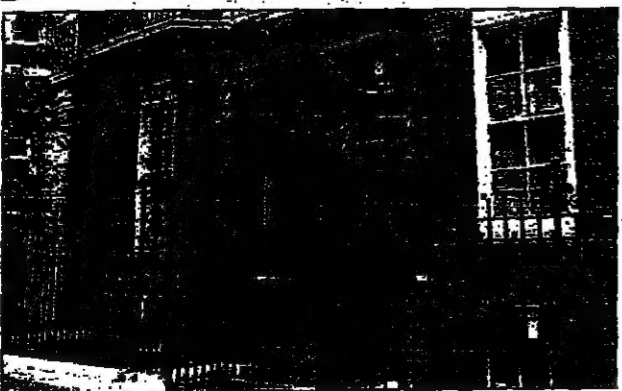
By DANIEL MCGRORY

THE hanging baskets of parties outside David Batty's home close to Kensington Palace won him a civic award, and only added to his reputation as a nice man, a good neighbour and a kindly boss.

Yesterday a series of tributes over the way he conducted his business were paid at Southwark Crown Court as the flamboyant New Zealander was jailed for 18 months for running a gay brothel 150 yards from the home of Diana, Princess of Wales. The vice squad said it was "probably the happiest male brothel in Britain".

The true nature of his basement business in Palace Gate — amid the luxurious surroundings of embassies and hotels — was discovered after an undercover police operation, though the brothel boasted its own Internet site.

Barry Forward, for the prosecution, agreed that Batty was highly regarded by those who worked for him: "He did all sorts of things for them and helped them with personal problems. They were under no pressure at all. In fact, there were always young men wait-



The brothel was in the basement of this house. Vice police it was probably the "happiest" of its kind

ing to join and they seemed to leave with regret." Judge Valerie Pearlman was shown letters from contented clients and testimonies from some of the 50 prostitutes, who told how Batty had sent them on "improvement courses".

Linda Stradwick, for the defence, said the "stylishly decorated" premises had "brightened up the area rather than taking away from it". Alcohol was strictly forbidden. "Even the probation officer described Batty as refreshing, frank and likeable," she told the court. "There was open-

ness and friendliness. He provided his staff with regular health checks. The place was run to a higher standard than a very good hotel."

She said her client, who admitted living off immoral earnings, had even started paying National Insurance and was about to settle a £60,000 tax bill when police raided the premises.

Pleading for a community-service sentence, Ms Stradwick said that Batty, who had since moved out of his £30,000-a-year flat next to the brothel, was hoping to set up a gardening business in Austr-

lia: "Gardening is his real love." His hanging baskets had received an award from the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

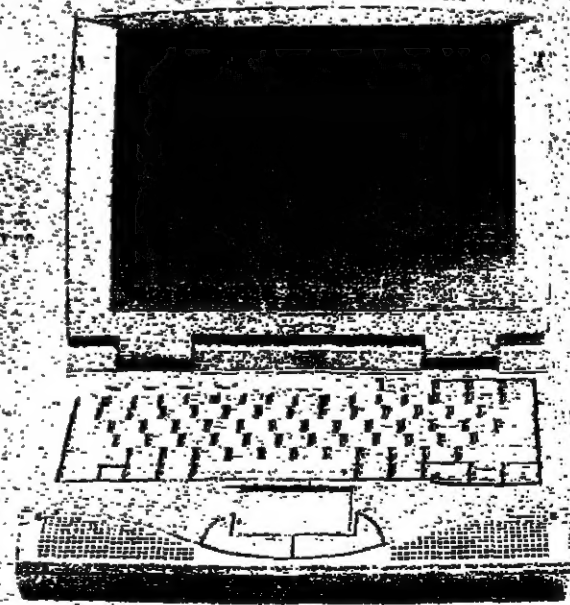
The brothel brought in almost £700,000 in two years. The judge said: "I accept, as both counsel have told me, that you operated a clean, well run business and there was no suggestion of coercion, violence or trickery."

"But you knew what you were doing was against the law. This offence was so serious only an immediate custodial sentence is justified."

After the case, PC Phil Rickard, of the Metropolitan Police Clubs and Vice Unit, said: "He operated in a very plush area and most of his customers wore suits. There were two rules to getting a job — no drink and no bitchiness. I think you could say it was probably the happiest male brothel in Britain."

Residents living in the red brick Victorian mansion block were yesterday disappointed at Batty's sentence. Andre Durand, an artist who lives next door, said: "Everyone around here knew it was a brothel. They were very busy and did good business."

## Swiss army notebook



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power of an Intel Pentium® processor 133MHz. Quite simply you get everything you need in one package at a cracking little price. For your brochure pack please phone: 0990 50 00 20





# A cry from the heart for candour in public life

The most telling point of Ann Widdecombe's devastating speech is likely to be lost in all the drama of the occasion and its impact on Michael Howard's fight for the Tory leadership. Her central plea was for more candour in public life and a greater willingness by ministers to take responsibility.

The Tories suffered heavily during their final years in office from the feeling that ministers were for ever passing the buck — resorting to "semantic prestidigitation" in Miss Widdecombe's evocative, if hardly catchy, phrase about Mr Howard. That was the burden of the Scott report on the Iraqi arms allegations and a host of similar, smaller affairs. In many cases, ministers had not done anything particularly wrong, but they appeared to be dodging and weaving — often hiding behind their civil servants — to avoid taking direct responsibility.

That cry from the heart, and the soul, about standards in public life is what made Miss Widdecombe's speech so vivid and effective. At times, the thrust was in danger of being submerged by a mass of detail, intelligible only to those who have followed the Derek Lewis affair obsessively. The truth rests on a balance of interpretation about how busy ministers behaved under pressure. A sense of proportion and perspective can easily be lost in this case, much rests on fine distinctions between "tell" and "instruct" and the mood of a heated meeting.

But the importance of such affairs is that they offer rare glimpses into the workings of government and into the behaviour of senior ministers. Mr Howard last night, and his allies earlier, attempted to brush aside Miss Widdecombe's charges on the grounds that she had said nothing new and that he was merely doing his duty after the Learmont report had shown severe problems in the Prison Service.

But Mr Howard's counter-attack cannot undo the damage done to his leadership campaign. Unfairly or not, his credibility cannot be restored. That is the way with such attacks from your own side, which often have greater repercussions than criticism from the other side of the House. Miss

Widdecombe's speech was reminiscent, on a lesser scale, of Sir Geoffrey Howe's powerful, if more succinct, attack on Lady Thatcher that triggered her downfall in November 1990. The most interesting face to watch during Miss Widdecombe's speech was not Mr Howard's — his pained and pale expression said it all — but Jack Straw's. The fateful, and much quoted, debate of October 19, 1995, when Mr Howard made his allegedly misleading remarks was also the low point of Mr Straw's period as Shadow Home Secretary. He muffled his attack on Mr Howard

because he did not have the evidence to support his attack. Yesterday, at last, he heard that evidence deployed. Mr Straw and the Government Front Bench obviously enjoyed the reversal of roles. But Miss Widdecombe's speech was also a warning to them not to dodge responsibility. Earlier, in a solid debate as Home Secretary, Mr Straw promised to take "proper ministerial responsibility" for the Prison Service while leaving it as an executive agency. As a first step, he announced that in future all parliamentary questions about the service would be answered by ministers and not by the Director-General, who is a civil servant.

PETER RIDDELL

'We left the Prison Service without a leader and we shattered its morale when all was going well'

## Widdecombe details her charges against Howard

By JAMES LANDALE AND POLLY NEWTON

ANN WIDDECOMBE made a series of allegations yesterday against Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, in a 40-minute speech to the House of Commons.

Howard's use of Learmont report as pretext to sack prisons chief

The former Home Office minister accused Mr Howard of using the report into several prison escapes as a pretext for sacking Derek Lewis, the then Director General of the Prison Service, in October 1995.

She said there were "serious flaws" in the report, produced by General Sir John Learmont, which should not have been used to sack Mr Howard. "It is hard to conclude other than that report was his pretext rather than his reason. There is evidence within the Home Office that he had wanted, for a long time before that report was produced, to remove Mr Lewis from his post," she added that the handling of Mr Lewis's dismissal was "deplorable".

Howard told Lewis to suspend prison governor

Miss Widdecombe accused Mr Howard of telling Mr



Parkhurst escapes led Mr Howard to demand suspension of the governor

Lewis that John Marriott, the then Governor of Parkhurst prison, should be suspended after a break out of prisoners. This is a key allegation because it shows Mr Howard apparently interfering in an operational matter in the Prison Service. She said Mr Howard had denied this accusation when put to him in the Commons by Tony Blair on October 19, 1995.

Miss Widdecombe said: "In other words, he was categorically denying in this House that he had personally told Mr Lewis that the Governor of Parkhurst should be suspended

immediately. On Newsnight on Tuesday May 13 this year, Mr Howard was far less categorical. "What he said then was, 'I gave him [Mr Lewis] the benefit of my opinion in strong language'. The Newsnight version is the correct one. There is ample documentary evidence that Mr Howard did indeed personally tell Mr Lewis that the Governor of Parkhurst should be suspended."

She added: "In a personal note to me, a very senior civil servant who was present said, 'This was the subject of the worst disagreement. The Home Secretary wanted sus-

pension. Derek Lewis adamantly refused'."

She said that all the documents in the Home Office relating to the affair and all the recollections of civil servants is that Mr Lewis was told to suspend Mr Marriott "and that he was told to take time to reconsider his decision when he refused."

She told the House: "That is a very different picture from the one painted in this House on October 19 when all Mr Howard would admit to was 'wondering' whether suspension might be more appropriate."

Howard tried to overrule Lewis

Miss Widdecombe said that Mr Howard had told the Commons that there was no question of overruling Mr Lewis's decision not to suspend Mr Marriott. "Oh yes there was. As he blatantly admitted last week and as also evidenced by documentary evidence within the [Home Office], after Mr Lewis had been asked to reconsider his decision, Mr Howard took advice on whether he could instruct Derek Lewis to suspend Marriott... Mr Howard was advised that he could not instruct him after consultation had taken place with the Cabinet Office and legal advisers within the department."

"It is therefore not true to say that there was no question of overruling the Director General."

Incomplete minutes

Miss Widdecombe said Mr Howard had told MPs that the minutes of the meeting which he placed in the House of Commons library "were the most detailed official account". Miss Widdecombe said: "Those minutes were not a full account. They omit, for example, the very important fact that Mr Lewis was invited to reconsider his decision."



Derek Lewis: Miss Widdecombe said handling of his sacking was deplorable

Howard's refusal to explain what happened

Miss Widdecombe said there had been much speculation over whether Mr Howard threatened to overrule Mr Lewis if he failed to suspend Mr Marriott.

"We know that he was sent out to reconsider his decision, we know that during that time advice was taken on whether or not he could be overruled. "It is strange that Mr Howard refused to answer this question 14 times on Newsnight last week and was so tongue-tied that he could not explain, as he later claimed, that he was unsure about this element of such a traumatic disagreement and needed to check the papers."

Howard's threat to sack Lewis

Miss Widdecombe said that questions had been raised at that time over whether Mr

Howard had not only threatened to overrule Mr Lewis, but also threatened to sack him. "I can confirm that [Mr Howard] did talk about sacking him that day but not to Mr Lewis himself. Mr Lewis subsequently found out from a third party. It is an indication of the degree of ferocity that existed in that fateful meeting."

Miss Widdecombe said: "Mr Howard has a problem in that his first reaction to attack is denial and refuge in semantic prestidigitation."

She asked why Mr Howard had not come to the Commons and told MPs that he did say Mr Marriott should be suspended, that he "pressured" Mr Lewis to do so, that he told Mr Lewis to reconsider his decision after he refused, and that he considered overruling Mr Lewis. "He could not do so because he had dug a hole for

himself over policy and operations and he would never have had to dig such a hole had he been prepared to keep the Director General in place."

Miss Widdecombe said Mr Howard had defended his refusal to deny trying to overrule Mr Lewis by saying "he would have to check the record". He also said that civil servants would have checked his account and would have told him that it was wrong. This, she said, "contains the familiar sound of Mr Howard looking for scapegoats. Can he really not take responsibility himself for what he said?"

Damage and cost of sacking prisons chief

Miss Widdecombe told MPs: "What did we achieve by the sacking of Derek Lewis? We had to pay Mr Lewis £220,000 in compensation. We had to pay his costs in the sum of

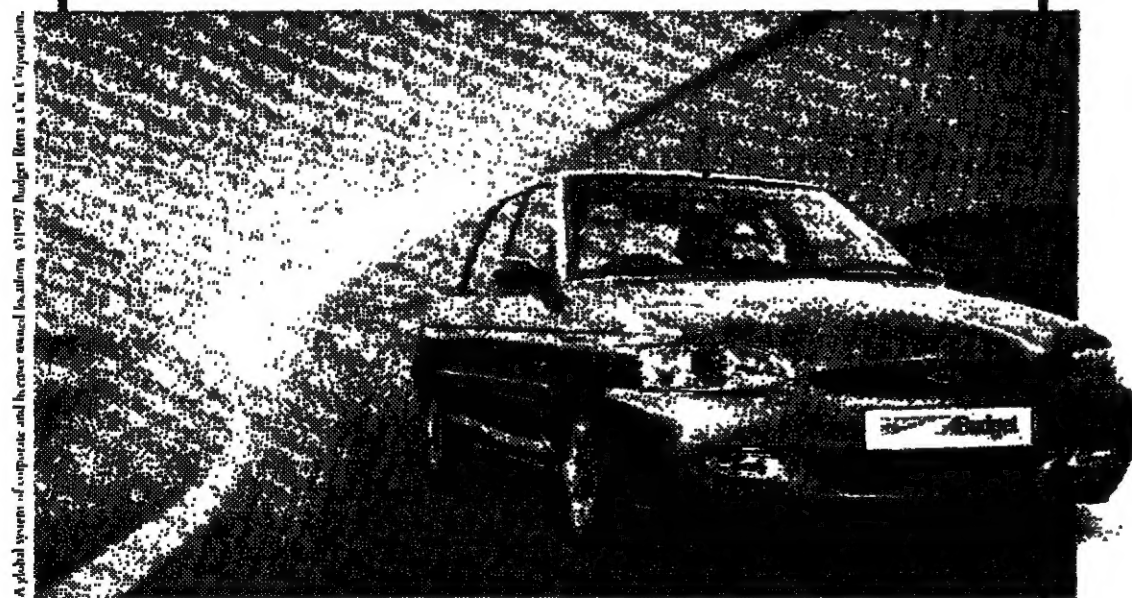
£40,000 and our own costs in the sum of £16,000. That unnecessary bill of more than a quarter of a million pounds was the cost to the taxpayer for Mr Howard's decision."

She added that the move "severely damaged" the Government's relations with the private sector over prisons and created a "false distinction between policy and operations which has reverberated around the whole of Whitehall."

"We left the Prison Service without a confirmed leader for five months and we shattered its morale just at a time when all had been going well."

She asked if Mr Lewis's sacking eliminated the "disasters" in the Prison Service. "No. Only a few months later, approximately 541 prisoners were released before the end of their sentence. They did not even have to break out."

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## Museums may have to pool resources

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL museums are so strapped for cash that one in Shropshire was forced to display a replica because it could not afford adequate security, Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the National Arts Collections Fund, the country's largest art charity, said last night. Others cannot even afford the train fare to look at potential acquisitions for their collections.

In a lecture delivered at the British Museum Sir Nicholas expressed dismay at the financial problems facing museums. However, he said that it

was "very unlikely that all the problems are due to inadequate funding" and called on every museum director to consider further savings. A pooling of service costs was a possibility, he said, and there might even be amalgamation or transfers of collections from one museum to another.

"Here in the capital, it strikes me that there is room for some rationalisation in the field of works on paper. Can every single museum throughout the country really justify its continuing independent existence?"

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# Chelsea uproots the municipal past in favour of back-garden beauty

BY ALAN TOOGOOD  
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Chelsea Flower Show is changing. In the great marquee there are none of the ambitious and flamboyant displays beloved of local authorities. No massed ranks of vibrant colours and carpet bedding. Exhibits this year are generally smaller and packed with plants and ideas that should appeal to ordinary gardeners.

The show, which opens to Royal Horticultural Society members today, is also the launch pad for new plants, including roses. David Austin Roses, of Albrighton, West Midlands, has launched five of its latest cultivars, including "Geoff Hamilton", with strongly fragrant pink flowers in the old roses style, named after the television gardener who died last year.

To mark its centenary, Notcutts Garden Centres, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, has a new rose, "Centenary", a warm pink floribunda that flowers in great profusion.

Delphiniums are a Chelsea perennial, and Blackmore and Langdon, of Penford, Bristol, exhibitor of many years' standing, has a new cultivar "Pandora" with sky-blue flowers.

Dianthus are in vogue and are among the top colour providers for patio containers. Blooms of Bressingham, Norfolk, is showing what it believes to be the first variegated-leaved cultivar, "Brenmore Beauty". The flowers are deep pink but it is the bright gold and green foliage that catches the eye.

There can be few exhibitors bold enough to show just one variety of plant but the Guernsey Clematis Nursery, of St Sampson, Guernsey, has done just that. The new Clematis "Blue Moon" is rather special, though. Raised by the nursery owner Raymond Evison, this large-flowered cultivar is a beautiful shade of lilac blue and flowers in late May and June and again in August and September. The best colour is achieved in shade. Being compact, it is ideal for patios.

Another new climber is shown in the cottage-style front garden created by Roger Harvey Garden World, of Stevenage, Hertfordshire. A vine, *Vitis coignetiae* "Claret Cloak", growing on the wall of the house, has large, rich coppery purple leaves



John and Norma Major admire a bay tree during a visit to the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday

which, in autumn, turn to scarlet and crimson. Dibley's Nurseries, of Ruthin, North Wales, is displaying the popular pot plant, streptocarpus, in which it specialises. Among the latest hybrids, raised on the nursery,

is the vigorous "Rhianon", with white flowers, striped purple in the throat and flushed with mauve on the outside.

Peter J. Smith, of Ashington, West Sussex, grower of alstroemerias or

princess lilies, is launching his new dwarf cultivar, "Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother". It is a superb plant for the conservatory, patio container or garden, with cream flowers flushed with pink and a yellow flare

on the upper petal. In its large display of conifers, Lincluden Nursery, of Bisleigh Green, Surrey, is showing for the first time a small conifer for patio containers or rock gardens, *Picea canadensis* "County Park Fire". Raised by County Park Nursery, of Hornchurch, Essex, specialist in New Zealand plants, the foliage, when young, is cream-yellow, turns salmon pink, becomes green in summer and purple-bronze in winter.

Another exhibit that relies on foliage only is the display from Rickards Hardy Ferns, of Tenbury Wells, Hereford and Worcester. It shows the diversity of form to be found in ferns, among them New Zealand tree ferns such as the silver-backed *Cyathea dealbata*, and the black-stemmed *C. medullaris*. Not totally hardy, they are ideal for a cool conservatory.

Stapeley Water Gardens, of

Stapeley, Cheshire, proves that it is not necessary to have a garden pool to enjoy aquatic plants. It is launching water plants in black plastic pots, which can be placed on a patio or window sill or submerged in a garden pond.

The exhibit from the London Borough of Hackney is a display of plants sold by Loddiges Nursery, based in Hackney between 1771 and 1852 and at the time one of the foremost nurseries in England. The nursery introduced many new plants to Britain and some can be seen in the display, such as the black-stemmed bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*), the oak-leaved hydrangea (*H. quercifolia*) and violas. The exhibit is to be reconstructed in Shore Gardens, Hackney, after the show.

Chelsea is particularly strong on

overseas horticulture, and exhibitors come from as far afield as

Australia. Kings Park and Botanic Garden, of Perth, Western Australia, has staged a display of Western Australian wild flowers, from lush and arid habitats.

□ The private view for RHS members is today and tomorrow. The show, in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, is open to the public on Thursday from 8am to 8pm and Friday from 8am to 5pm. Admission is by ticket only, bought in advance (no tickets at the gates). The 24-hour show information line is 0171 649 1885.



Bentine: champion

## Flypast for Bentine as Goon is not forgotten

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE Red Arrows appeared in perfect V-formation over London yesterday as they paid tribute to Michael Bentine, erstwhile Goon and the only native Peruvian RAF officer to have been born in Watford.

Fellow former Goons Spike Milligan and Sir Harry Secombe were among celebrities, family and friends at St Paul's Church in Covent Garden for a memorial service. Sir Harry said of the *It's a Square World* creator: "Michael invented an absurd world where anything was possible. Now he is up there somewhere, he may have been put in charge of the weather. If we have a heatwave at Christmas, we will know who is responsible."

The broadcaster Raymond Baxter said that Bentine showed an affection for the RAF that the service had signally failed to reciprocate, first refusing him recruitment because of his Peruvian nationality, then having him arrested as a deserter while he was pursuing his alternative bent as an actor.

Bentine stayed on as an intelligence officer, "revelling in the fact that aircrews ritually dropped their chemical toilet as a final parting shot on their target", and became a champion of the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Service, page 24

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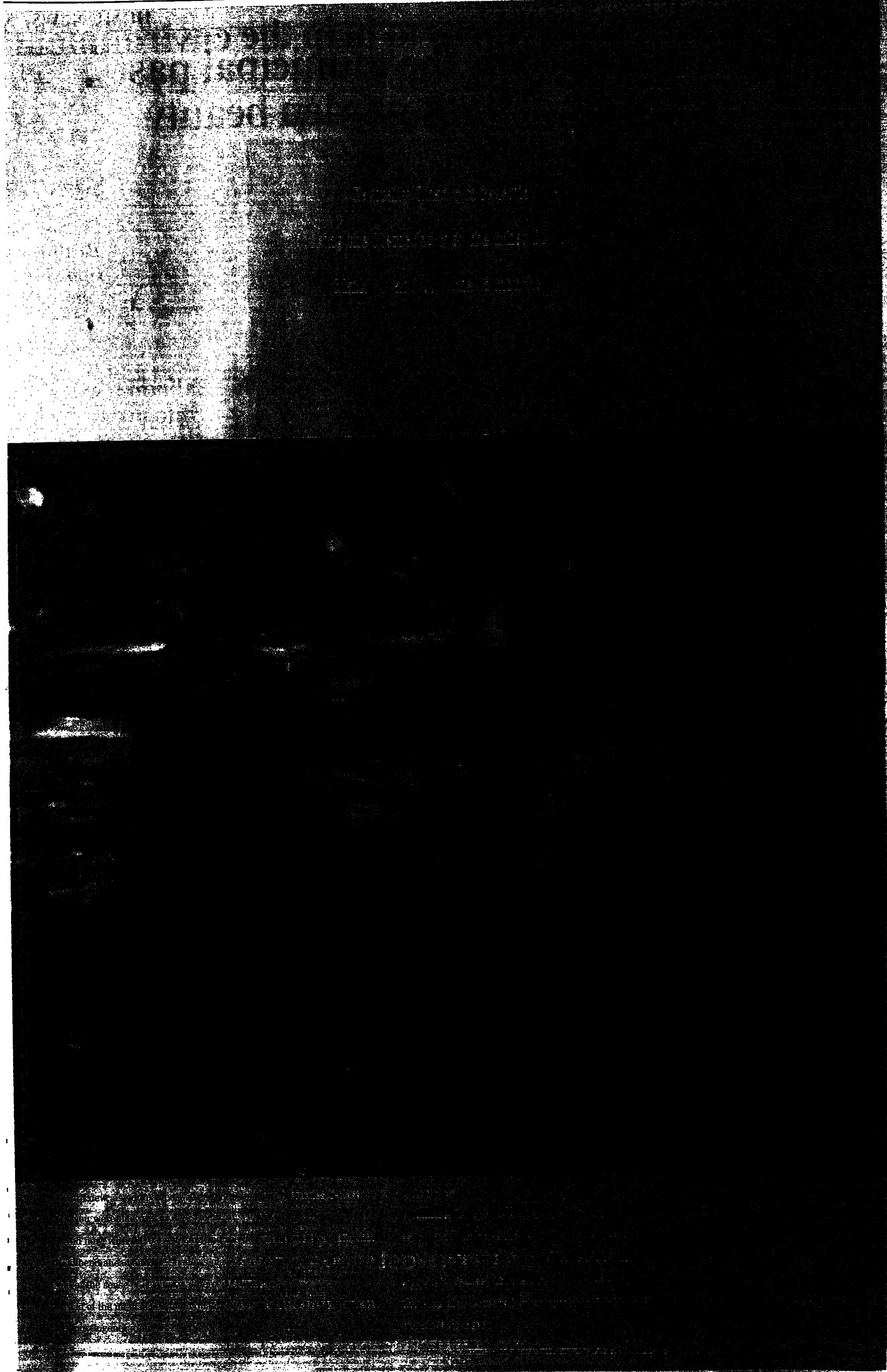
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# Industry faces water curbs to help the environment

By Nick Nuttall

WATER companies, industry and farmers face curbs and higher charges on water pumped from rivers, lakes and underground boreholes under proposals outlined yesterday by John Prescott.

Speaking at a water summit in London, the Deputy Prime Minister signalled that the economics of the water industry must now take account of the environmental damage to wildlife and wetland areas caused by over-abstraction. He said that many of the thousands of

licences which allow companies to pump water from the countryside were out of date, and the Department of the Environment was launching a review.

"This review will examine ways in which environmentally damaging abstractions, which often date from the issue of licences of right in the 1960s, can be equitably curtailed," said Mr Prescott. Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said the review would also include arrangements for revoking licences in areas where pumping

was causing significant environmental damage. The system needed to be better protected wildlife and areas where water was used for leisure and "quiet enjoyment".

The summit, attended by representatives from green groups, the water industry, consumer groups and the Environment Agency, was called after three years of drought.

Mr Prescott announced five years of mandatory targets to reduce leaks from water supplies, which would be reviewed annually. The targets are to be set shortly by the regulator, the Office of Water

Services (Ofwat). He said: "Leakage of water from pipes is too high. An average of nearly 30 per cent of the water leaks away before customers can use it."

"People are rightly outraged when their supply is restricted but know millions of gallons of treated water are being allowed to leak away. But on top of that, water lost through leakage means higher abstractions and an ever greater strain on the water environment."

Ian Byatt, the water regulator, said that failure to meet the targets would carry penalties, and could

lead to water companies being put into the hands of an administrator from Ofwat.

Other announcements, some of which were foreshadowed in *The Times* yesterday, include a demand that companies offer free leak repairs for domestic customers, and water audits of homes. The Government will be looking at ways to tighten regulations so that appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines and showers use less water. Mr Prescott also promised a review of the way charges were levied for water.

The summit signalled a weakening of Labour's opposition to water metering as a means of curbing demand. Mr Meacher said the Government supported selective metering of homes with big gardens and swimming pools, but remained opposed to compulsory metering, with concerns over the impacts in low-income and large family households, and where medical conditions required larger than usual amounts of water.

Mr Meacher said they were also keen to see improved compensation for customers whose supplies were

disrupted because of drought and also in cases where, because of contamination, households were forced to boil water.

The Government stopped short of backing a Water Saving Trust of backing a levy on companies' profits. But ministers want companies to report back in three weeks on how they might use the Environmental Task Force for promoting water efficiency schemes, such as the installation of plastic containers in cisterns to reduce the flush capacity of a lavatory.

## Nurses cheer as Dobson dashes their pay hopes

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

FRANK DOBSON told nurses yesterday that they could not expect a large pay rise in the foreseeable future — and was cheered loudly by them as he did so.

"Times are difficult and settlements will be tight," the Health Secretary told the Royal College of Nursing annual conference in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. "You know as well as I do that we have to live within our means."

He succeeded in putting his bleak message across by wrapping it in a speech which had the 1,500 delegates cheering and clapping as he attacked the health service reforms introduced by the Conservatives and promised to dismantle them as quickly as possible.

The treasured health service principles of fairness, quality and equality had been breached by the outgoing government, he said. "The changes they introduced have created a two-tier system. That system is unfair to patients, it is repugnant to those of you who are forced to become involved in the unfairness."

### Militant is poised to lead Whitehall union

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

THE hard Left is expected to win control today of a main Whitehall union. John Macreadie, a Militant supporter, is predicted to take over the leadership of the 125,000-member Civil and Public Service Association.

Mr Macreadie, 50, says in his election address: "As new Labour has abandoned its socialist principles, I will not be renewing my membership. I am joining the Socialist Party."

The association is expected



Dobson: promised to dismantle Tory reforms

and it is costing a fortune in bureaucracy, red tape and invoices. That is why we will get rid of it. We will get rid of the internal market."

After that, Mr Dobson could say nothing wrong. The delegates, who gave him a standing ovation before he even began to speak, repeatedly interrupted with cheers when he mentioned Labour's promises and hisses and boos

when he referred to 18 years of Tory government.

His promises were nevertheless cautious. Although the internal market was hated, there was to be no quick end to it, and he told the nurses that they, rather than "overpaid management consultants", would have their part to play in working out the future. Systems for change would be tried and tested on a small scale.

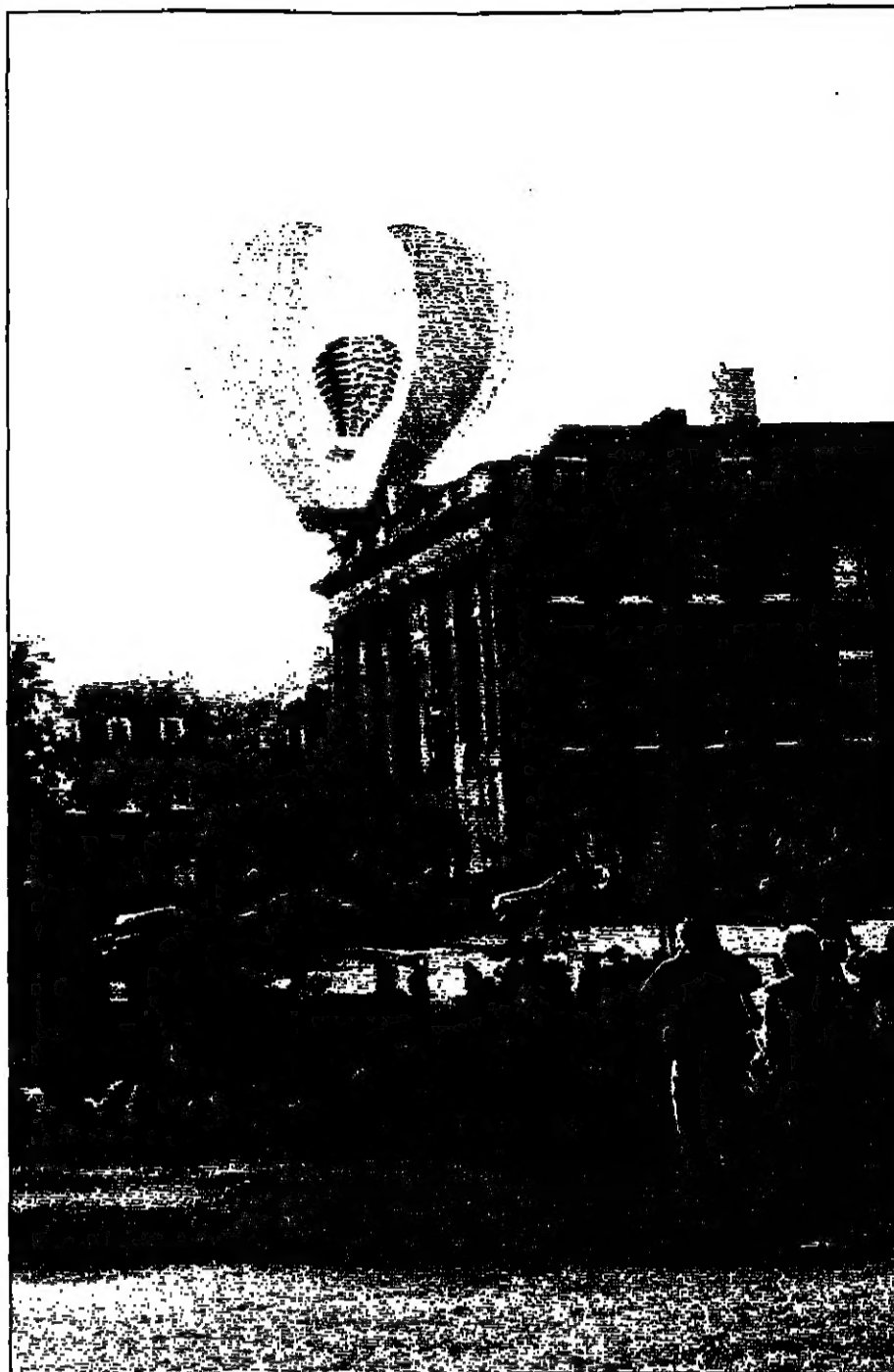
He accepted that pay and conditions needed to be high enough to attract high-calibre recruits and keep trained nurses. "When it costs £35,000 to train a nurse we can't really afford to have 140,000 qualified nurses not working in the profession." But nobody went into nursing to make a fortune, Mr Dobson said. He was going to introduce a revised system for national pay negotiations with local flexibility, but money would be tight.

As one step to improve working conditions, he was working on new guidelines to reduce the number of assaults on staff working in hospitals. "Nurses, doctors and other NHS staff go to work to earn a living. You are not paid to be the targets of violence. If you were, you'd be in the boxing ring. I am determined to stamp out loutish behaviour that puts you at risk."

There would also be "family-friendly working arrangements" to make it possible for trained nurses to return to the profession after becoming parents. He would back moves to give nurses greater professional responsibilities.

Christine Hancock, the general secretary, said afterwards that the conference had given Mr Dobson the warmest reception for a Health Secretary she could remember.

The nurses' latest 3.3 per cent pay award was implemented at the beginning of last month and negotiations on the next one will start early next year.



The balloon tangled with chimneys before the crew freed it and sailed on



Firemen inspecting damage on the Bath roofline

## Balloon trip turns into air raid as chimneypots topple

By Simon Horsborough

A BALLOONIST crashed into a row of Georgian houses, causing damage estimated at £20,000, before floating into the distance. The collision happened seconds after Shaun Pollard, the pilot, took off at the Bath Balloon Fiesta and lost control of his craft, narrowly avoiding buildings in the city's Royal Crescent. There were no injuries.

Yesterday, accident investigators blamed a strong gust of wind for the accident, in which the balloon basket smashed through a fourth-floor bay window and toppled chimneypots.

Margaret Stewart, who watched as the balloon hit the flats where she lives, said: "I could hear screaming and I thought, 'My God, what's happening?' The balloon was dragging along the tops of the buildings. I ran out and saw all the debris and

phoned the fire brigade." A spokesman for Avon Fire Brigade said that firefighters searched the rubble, fearing that the pilot or his passengers might have fallen from the basket after impact. He said: "He gave the buildings a real clout. When we arrived there was nothing left of a couple of chimneys and there was Bath stone everywhere."

Julie Bootle, the balloon's owner, said that Mr Pollard and his two passengers were unhurt but shaken by the accident on Sunday. "The crew had been trying to right the balloon and were in danger of falling out before getting it airborne again," she said. "At first it looked as if it was going to stay stuck."

A spokesman for the British Ballooning and Airship Club said that people whose houses had been damaged would be able to claim on the pilot's insurance.

### CORRECTION

A report, "High-tech angling banned as too fishy" (May 8), wrongly suggested that Mr Roger Mordimer was cowardly using an echo-sounder in a fishing competition. In fact, he used the device quite openly, to the knowledge of other competitors, and for only a short period of time. It did not assist him with his catch.

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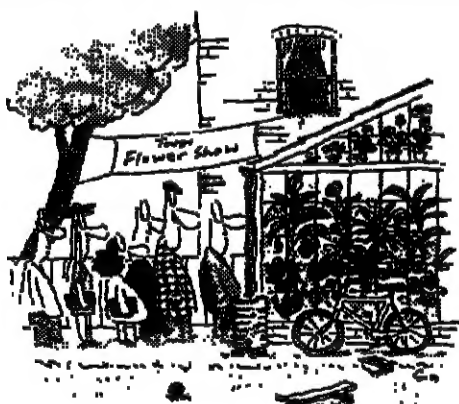
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Codebreakers' transcripts confirm that Churchill had early evidence of the Holocaust

# Nazi police competed over execution 'score'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GERMAN military police commanders competed to score the highest number of executions in "cleansing operations" as Hitler's armies advanced across Russia in 1941, according to secret radio messages intercepted by British codebreakers.

Regular reports sent to the headquarters of the Ordnungspolizei (Orpo) listed mass executions of Jews and partisans in Russia and Ukraine, according to the files of German police traffic from 1939 to 1945. The messages, decoded by the mathematicians at the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park, were released yesterday by the Public Record Office in Kew.

The element of competition between Orpo sector chiefs is clear from a message dated August 7, 1941. After a battle it was reported that the population of Pazyk had opened fire from their houses as the German units returned.

The decoded message from a police chief read: "I ordered the entire male population of the place to be evacuated ... up to today, midday, a further 3,600 have been executed, so that the total of executions carried out by the Reit-Brigade up to now amounts to 7,819. Thus the figure of executions in my area now exceeds the

30,000 mark." The assessment made by the intelligence analysts at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, concluded: "The tone of this message suggests that the word has gone out that a definite decrease in the total population of Russia would be welcomed in high quarters and that the leaders of the three sectors stand somewhat in competition with each other as to their 'scores'."

Files marked HW16 contain remarkable evidence of German war crimes against the Jews, particularly in the extermination and concentration camps such as Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Dachau, as well as on the Russian Front.

A Bletchley Park report of September 12, 1941, stated that the killing of Jews on the Russian Front by the SS provided evidence of "a policy of savage intimidation, if not ultimate extermination". The intercepted messages confirm that Churchill knew in the early stages of the war that Hitler had embarked on a campaign of mass murdering Jews.

The information came to the British leader after the successful breaking of the German Enigma code. The material this produced was the greatest secret of the war and Churchill did not dare reveal anything that might compromise the breakthrough.

Intercepts of the Northern sector of the German police in Russia, whose role was to "clean up" after the German Army had swept through, show the frequency with which higher officials conferred. The impression given was of a "higher direction" authorising all mass executions, focusing on three key figures — Himmler, head of the SS, General Kurt Daluge, chief of the Orpo in Berlin and another senior commander called Prützmann.

The decoded telegraph traffic referred to "special duties" and there were warnings to the participants of the secret killing missions to "hold their tongues". The language of the radio messages changed when General Daluge became

The situation-reports of the 5th and 6th were unfortunately not taken, but we have an interesting addendum to the latter sent on the 7th. (24.7.8.41) R. This reports an important engagement between Pol.batl.316 and Russian forces 1800 strong under the leadership of a General. The outcome is missed (part untranslatable), but the message concludes thus: "since the population of Pazyk shot at the returning 1. Coy. Pol.Batl.316 from houses, I ordered the entire male population of the place to be evacuated by 11.00 am. The operations of the SS Reit-Brigade continue. By mid-day a further 3,600 have been executed, so that the total of executions carried out by the Reit-Brigade up to now amounts to 7,819. Thus the figure of executions in my area now exceeds the 30,000 mark." (24.7.8.41) R. The tone of this message suggests that the word has gone out that a definite decrease in the total population of Russia would be welcomed in high quarters and that the leaders of the three sectors stand somewhat in competition with each other as to their "scores."

A Bletchley report tells of executions by German police, who killed thousands of Russian civilians in the wake of the Wehrmacht's advance.



alarmed that "the unspeakable activities of his police in Russia" might be intercepted by enemy codebreakers.

Figures of executions were compiled under a new heading — Aktion nach Kriegsbrauch (action according to the usage of war).

However, "a slip" on the part of the higher SS and

police leader in the south in a situation report made it clear to the codebreakers that this was a euphemism for killings. The message from the police chief said: "Police Regiment South: action according to the usage of war — successes. Police Regiment South liquidated 1,548 Jews."

The complexities of decoding

the keys meant that the number of executions was probably double that recorded by Bletchley Park. Although it was not only the Jews facing the death squads, the messages all referred in general terms to the execution of "Jews". One Bletchley Park document says: "The fact that this heading [under Jews]

invariably produces the biggest figure shows that this is the ground for killing most acceptable to the Higher Authorities."

One file contains no writing, just page after page of columns of figures representing concentration camp prisoners and numbers of deaths. In a file marked HW16-7, the

codebreakers reveal that on July 23, 1942, orders were sent out to chief police officers in certain areas of Russia to "reconnoitre suitable buildings for a decontamination station and a gas examination station".

Eastern Front photographs from The Russian Century by Brian Moynahan.



Himmler: may have authorised killings

**Poodle's day out costs £1,000**

A Frenchman has been fined £1,000 after bringing his pet poodle on a day trip to Britain. Yan Provost, 26, was detained by police after the dog was seen sitting in his French-registered van at a service station on the M25.

Provost, a van driver from Laval, near Paris, who was making deliveries of car spares, told police he was not aware of the law against bringing dogs into the country. The poodle had not been inoculated against rabies. Provost appeared before magistrates at Redhill, Surrey.

**Bullimore sails**

Tony Bullimore, who spent four days in the upturned hull of his yacht during the Vendée solo round-the-world race, is to compete in the Round Europe race. The Birmingham businessman and a crew of five leave Cherbourg on June 1.

**£50 kickabout**

Peter Naylor, 19, an office clerk who was practising football skills in Kirkham, Lancashire, was fined £20 with £30 costs under the Highways Act 1980 after he admitted playing a game on the street. His ball bounced into the road.

**Mountain airlift**

A British soldier was rescued by helicopter after falling 40ft while climbing Mount Kinchinjunga in Nepal. Roderick McArthur, from Londonderry, was part of a 15-strong team climbing the 28,170ft peak. He was treated for minor injuries.

**Terriers surface**

Two Lakeland terriers which disappeared down a farm drainage pipe at Beckley, Gloucestershire, have been rescued after being trapped underground for three days. They were found six feet down by farm workers using a digger.

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could earn mileage points that count towards higher status in any of their frequent flyer programmes. Wouldn't it be great if you could enjoy the same high standards of service whenever and wherever you fly. That's the idea behind Star Alliance, a network of United Airlines.



# Quick-thinking computer tackles secret of universe

By JOHN SHAW

A SUPER computer at Cambridge University could finally unravel the secrets of the universe, from its creation to the present day. The £2-million Cosmos, which was unveiled yesterday, will test scientific theories against practical observations.

Professor Stephen Hawking, principle investigator of the consortium that brought the computer to Cambridge, said: "The calculations involved are so enormous that they require state of the art machinery."

Cosmos thinks 100 times faster than the latest Pentium Pro personal computer and has 32 high performance R10000 processors and 8,000 megabytes of main memory. It is the largest Origin2000 computer in Britain. Although it is based at the university, it is owned and run by the UK Computational Cosmology Consortium.

The inter-disciplinary team working with the machine includes particle cosmologists and astrophysicists. Its members come from Cardiff, Durham, Oxford, Sussex and London Universities, Imperial College and the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh.

"The inter-disciplinary nature of this team is one of the great strengths of this work," said Professor Alex Broers,



Hawking: the team's principal investigator

vice-chancellor of the university, at the launch ceremony.

Dr Paul Shellard, director of the new facility, said: "Our mission is to push back our understanding of the first fractions of a second after the Big Bang, to unravel the enigmas and mysteries."

"In recent years interest in cosmology has exploded, driven in part by novel theoretical ideas connecting the formation of galaxies in our universe with fundamental high-energy theory and relativity."

"Many of these ideas about the early universe were first proposed in this country and on Cosmos their mathematical models can now be realised and directly compared with a

rapidly growing body of observational data about the universe. We can get results in days instead of waiting months or even years."

Professor Hawking, whose book *A Brief History of Time* has sold eight million copies, initiated the partnership that brought the computer to Cambridge during a visit to the headquarters of Silicon Graphics, which created the machine, at the company's headquarters in California.

Money for Cosmos came from a variety of sources, including the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council. Britain is a world leader in cosmology and members of the consortium said the super computer would help to maintain that advantage into the next century.

At present there are two theories about the growth of the universe: the inflation theory of rapid expansion after the Big Bang and the defect theory that the universe evolved in a phased transition, producing defects at certain points in its development.

Professor Hawking told a lecture later: "My money is on inflation, but we shall have to wait and see. It is such an elegant solution I am sure God would have chosen it."

The defect theory has been developed by Professor Neil



Cosmos will compare theories with observations such as these images captured by the Hubble Space Telescope

Turok, a colleague at Cambridge. But he said the simplest version of this explanation was incompatible with initial data produced by the computer based on satellite and telescopic observations.

However, he said: "I am still encouraged, because it is

progress even if this is ruled out. There are variations on these theories so it's really a mixed picture at the moment."

He said the findings would be reported at conferences in the next two months and would also be published in the specialist magazine *Physical*

Review. He said technical advances and the flow of information "have made us convinced we are on the verge of a golden age in cosmology."

"We want to crack the code of the universe," he said. "We want to be the Watson and Crick of cosmology." James D

Watson and Francis Crick were two young scientists who solved the riddle of DNA while working at Cambridge in 1953. Their laboratory was half a mile from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics that houses Cosmos.

## Record rise in vegetarianism gives meat trade food for thought

By MICHAEL HORNSEY  
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A RECORD three million Britons are now vegetarian, an increase of 20 per cent over the past two years, it was claimed yesterday. For the first time, the trend has risen faster among men than women.

The figures, from a Gallup poll, appear to scotch hopes that the meat industry is recovering from the public concern over BSE. Graham Keen, sales and marketing director

of the vegetarian supplier Realeat, part of the Haldane Foods Group which commissioned the poll, said: "The survey was done in March, a year after the latest scare over BSE started. It has been argued by some that things were getting back to normal for the meat industry. These figures show that is not the case and that record numbers of people are consciously making permanent changes to their lifestyle."

The poll suggests that more than 5,000 people have been turning to

vegetarianism each week over the two years. A record 5.4 per cent of the adult population say they no longer eat any kind of meat or fish. The total includes 1.114,000 men — an increase of 37 per cent — and 1,910,000 women, up by 12 per cent. There are an estimated 224,000 vegans, who additionally eschew milk, eggs and other animal-derived products.

Another eight million people — a record 14.3 per cent of the population — are avoiding "red" meats,

such as beef and lamb, while still eating fish and poultry. This is an increase of 21 per cent on the last survey, conducted in 1995.

The number of people citing BSE or "mad cow disease" as a reason for eating less meat rose from 7 per cent in 1995 to 22 per cent. However, 24 per cent gave taste as their main reason for cutting back. Eight per cent cited moral grounds.

Scottish men remain the biggest meat-eaters, with only 1.6 per cent succumbing to vegetarianism. The

poll, in line with previous surveys, shows the most affluent socio-economic groups are leading the anti-meat trend and are also the most concerned about the health aspects of diet.

Chris Dessent, of the Vegetarian Society, said: "This is fantastic news and shows that people have been switching to vegetarianism even faster than we thought or hoped."

But the Meat and Livestock Commission, the quango set up to promote the meat industry, dis-

missed the extent of the findings. A spokesman said: "The Realeat company comes up with similar findings every year."

"Our own surveys show that consumption of all types of meat has remained steady at between 63 and 64 kilograms a head a year for the past 30 years."

Gallup interviewed 4,200 people over the age of 16 throughout Britain for the survey, conducted between March 5 and March 18 this year.

Leading article, page 23

## Passenger sues over bus that failed to turn up

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PROFESSOR is suing a public transport authority because his bus failed to turn up. He wants his £280 taxi fare and £10 court costs.

Robert Stanton, 77, a semi-retired botany professor, formerly at the University of Malaya, waited for the minibus last March after a visit to the Haworth parsonage in west Yorkshire. He says that he stood for more than two hours without seeing the bus scheduled to take him to his home village of Stanbury, a mile down the road. The temporary shuttle had been introduced while a bridge was closed for repairs.

Dr Stanton, who helped to pioneer the development of Quorn, the soya substitute for meat, said that the link service was not reliable. He is suing West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, which has overall responsibility for transport in the region. "The bus times are a shambles. They don't know how to work a transport system," he said.

The transport executive is defending the action, saying it is not responsible for Calder Coaches, which runs the minibus. It successfully applied to have the case transferred from Keighley County Court to Leeds for yesterday's hearing. Despite Dr Stanton's request that it should be heard at Keighley for his convenience.

He claimed that he arrived at Leeds yesterday to be told that the case would be adjourned until Thursday because the transport authority's solicitor was going to the Chelsea Flower Show. A spokesman for the executive said: "Proceedings are still active and so we cannot comment on this matter."

Dr Stanton, who is an expert on agriculture, horticulture and microbiogenetics, is working on a project to produce starch from sago palm suitable for making bread and spaghetti.

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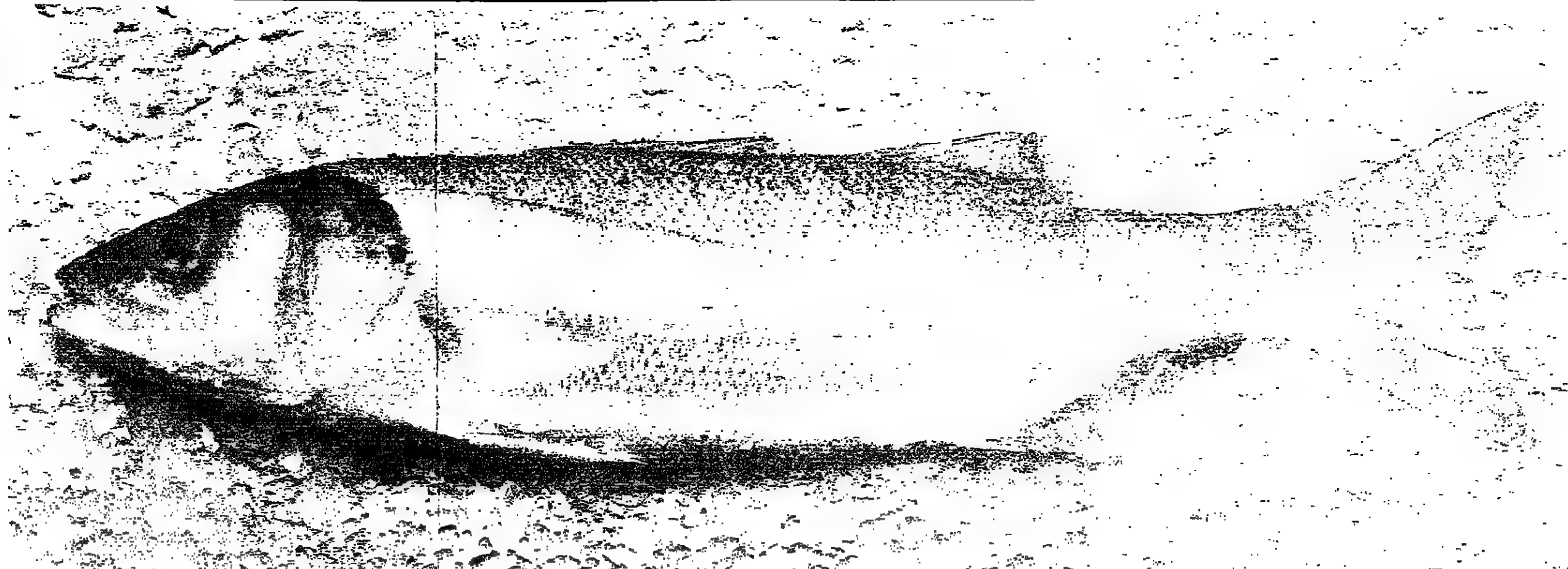
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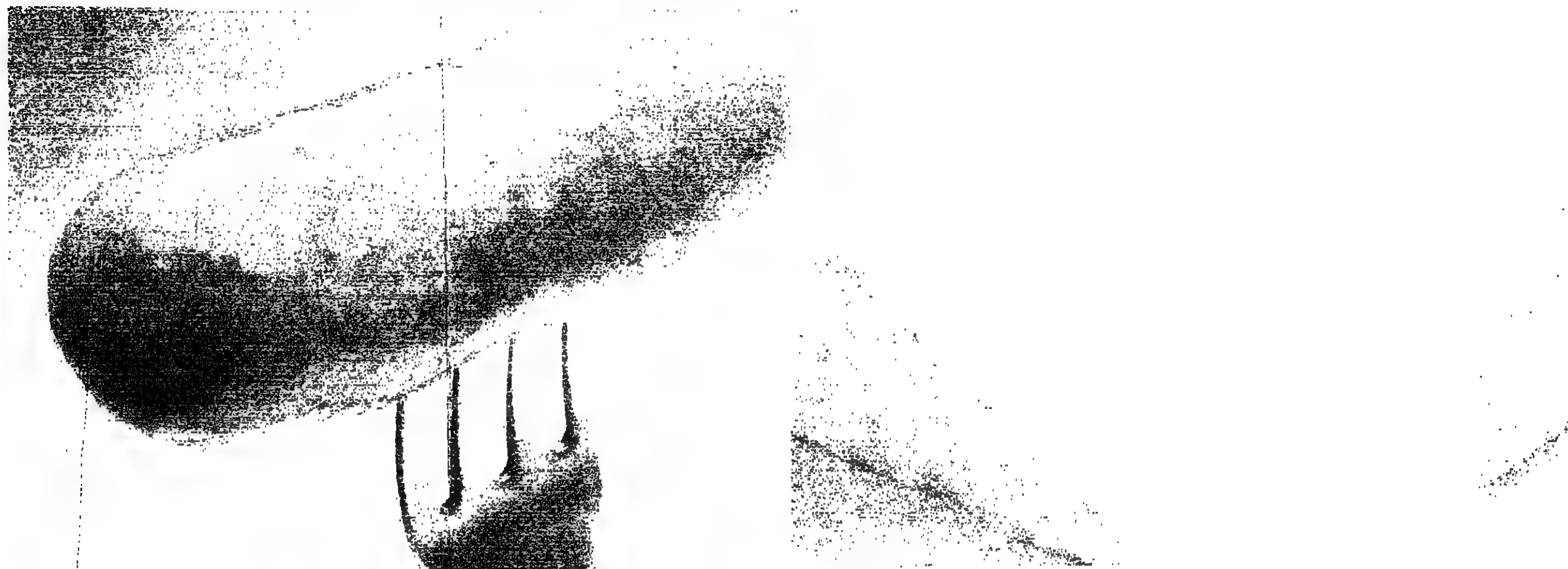
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# Ban on tobacco sponsorship could force major championships out of the country



Rugby, cricket and snooker, each with long-standing links with tobacco firms, are among sports that fear the consequences of the Government's determination to clamp down on the risk to health from smoking

## Sports bodies fear £9m 'black hole' in their finances

By ADRIAN LEE

SPORTS bodies greeted the Government's plans to ban tobacco sponsorship with a mixture of dismay and trepidation as they confronted the prospect of a £9 million hole in their finances.

The prospect of having to find alternative sponsors most daunted low profile sports such as ice-hockey and angling. Motor racing is likely to find it easier to replace its sponsorship deals than rival sports.

However, some insiders made dark threats about the future of the British Grand Prix and suggested a move was possible to the Far East where sponsorship rules are more flexible. One expert said that several European races could be switched to "tobacco-friendly" countries including Malaysia, Thailand, Korea and China.

The FIA, the organising body of Formula One, reacted

cautiously to the announcement but Karen Earl, who arranges sponsorship for the tobacco company Gallaher, said: "If the sport wants to keep them [the companies] on board it will have to look at countries where they are more flexible on advertising."

Ian Doyle, a leading snooker manager who looks after the affairs of the World No 1, Stephen Hendry, and 11 other prominent players, said: "If the ban was to take effect immediately it would be our worst nightmare. Not only would it wreck snooker but sport in general."

His words were echoed by the British Darts Organisation (BDO). Robert Holmes, a BDO spokesman, said: "Darts is under threat as a result of this. It's a huge blow at a time when the sport cannot afford a blow like this."

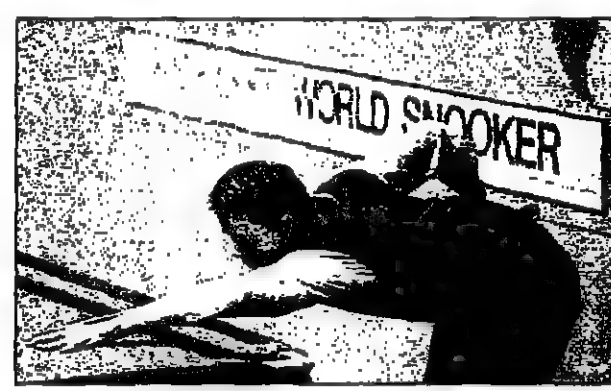
He accused the Labour Government of having a "very

shortsighted attitude". Imperial Tobacco sponsors the BDO's two flagship events, the Embassy World Professional Darts Championship and the Embassy Gold Cup Darts Championship.

John Lord, chief executive of the Ice Hockey Super League, which is still gaining a foothold in Britain, said the loss of its £750,000 three-year tobacco sponsorship deal would pose a major problem for his sport.

"It is not just a matter of going out and finding another sponsor," he said. "That can take years. Ultimately it is the sport that suffers. It is not as if sponsors were queuing up when we arranged our current deal."

Richard Little, spokesman for the England and Wales Cricket Board, said: "We are obviously monitoring the situation and must wait and see what the Government's proposals are." He said Benson



and Hedges, English cricket's longest serving sponsors, had "put a lot of money and commitment" into backing the sport.

Without tobacco, supporters claim that Sunday League cricket, first sponsored by John Player, would never have got off the ground. Benson and Hedges are the sole tobacco sponsors today, injecting £4 million over five years into the county limited overs competition named after the company.

Angling, the country's most popular participation sport, has two competitions sponsored by tobacco companies. The national fly-fishing competition is in its 15th year with support from Benson and Hedges.

Clive Turner, executive director of the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association, told the BBC's Radio 5 Live: "There are 15 million smokers within the UK now. If we're not able to

talk to them that seems somewhat discriminatory."

He insisted that banning tobacco sponsorship would not affect cigarette consumption. "It is said that Mr Dobson was taking a piece of cosmetic legislation that is going to reduce consumption."

Colin Stockall, spokesman for Gallaher, said: "We take the opportunity to defend sports sponsorship because we believe there's no convincing evidence that sponsorship causes anybody to actually start smoking."

A spokesman for Imperial Tobacco, which makes Embassy and sponsors darts, snooker, pool and fishing, said evidence had shown that advertising bans did not deter smokers. "We do not understand why the Government is unwilling to consider these well-established facts."

## Doubts dispelled by effect on the young

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

OVERSEAS

SIX countries that imposed bans on sports sponsorship by tobacco companies have over-ruled the initial doubts of sports fans and reduced their ranks of smokers.

The 1992 French ban on tobacco advertising in sport was the most hotly contested. It led to the cancellation of a motorcycle grand prix but won praise after reducing teenage smoking by 15 per cent in its first three years.

The ban led to uproar from viewers when French television blacked out a foreign soccer game because there were tobacco advertisements in the stadium. The Paris Dakar rally also suffered, with a 50 per cent drop in entries because drivers were unable to tout for support from cigarette companies.

The first countries to ban tobacco promotion for sport were Norway in 1975 and Finland in 1977.

The 1989 Canadian ban, acclaimed by anti-smoking lobbyists as a model for other countries because of its rigour, was narrowly overturned by judges for breaching the

constitutional right to free speech. Legislators are working on new wording.

New Zealand banned sports sponsorship in 1990, saying Maori women were among the main victims of smoking, and increased taxes on cigarettes to replace the money lost by sporting events.

The sports-mad Australians imposed a federal ban on cigarette sponsors in the Commonwealth Tobacco Advertising Prohibition Act 1992. This phased out sponsorship of sporting and cultural events by the mid-1990s but allowed existing contracts to run their course. The tobacco company W.D. & H.O. Wills was permitted to continue sponsoring cricket until the end of the 1995/6 season. The Australians replaced tobacco firms' sponsorship with a hypothe- cated tax on cigarettes that was used to support sporting and cultural events, and for health promotion.

To the joy of anti-smoking campaigners, in Victoria and Western Australia a healthy- living message is now trans-

mitted at sports meetings, using smokers' taxes to pay for it.

The ban is strictly monitored. The Pakistan cricket team was recently reprimanded during an Australian visit for being seen wearing a tobacco logo.

International events televised abroad were exempted from Australia's clampdown, allowing the Formula One grand prix to continue with advertising placed around the track on race days alone.

Motor racing grands prix in France, Germany and England already include a ban on tobacco logos, although they can be seen if viewers watch the Monaco and Brazilian races.

President Clinton classified nicotine as an addictive drug last year and approved a Food and Drug Administration ban on sponsorship at sports events, with the target of halving teenage smoking in seven years.

Action on Smoking and Health in London says there has been a fall of between 4 per cent and 9 per cent in consumption of cigarettes as a result of bans abroad.

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## Deals put brand names before armchair audience of millions

By ADRIAN LEE

THE 1965 ban on television advertisements for cigarettes was the catalyst for the tobacco companies to invest hundreds of millions of pounds in sport.

Sponsorship and advertising at events watched by armchair audiences of millions became the only opportunity to get brand names on television.

By the late 1970s tobacco companies, with their budgets freed by the advertising ban, were the main sponsors of sport. They have since slipped to ninth in a list headed by makers of sports equipment and clothing, largely because of a voluntary agreement which pegs the level of tobacco sponsorship to its 1984 level of £8 million a year. Alcohol companies currently spend about £30 million on British sport, out of a total approaching £350 million.

Traditional working class sports such as snooker and darts, with many hours of television exposure at a time, were natural targets for the tobacco companies. While Embassy was sponsoring the world snooker championship, the set resembled a giant cigarette box.

The game is still heavily

reliant upon tobacco money with four competitors - the Scottish Masters, World Championship, Masters and Welsh Open - gaining more than £10 million from deals with Regal, Embassy and Benson & Hedges.

Voluntary codes between the tobacco companies, the Government and the sporting bodies, have led to a more subtle approach. Darts players are now banned, by their own body, from smoking during play. The British Darts Organisation's two flagship events, the Embassy World Professional Darts Champ-

ionship and the Embassy Gold Cup Darts Championship, are sponsored by Imperial Tobacco. The relationship between darts and smoking has survived 21 years uninterrupted.

Sports such as athletics and football have always been uneasy about cigarette sponsorship. However, rugby league has been sponsored by tobacco firms for 29 years, agreeing a new £2.1 million contract last year with Imperial Tobacco for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup to take the sport into the millennium. Cricket, angling, yachting, golf, ten-pin bowling, greyhound racing and motor-cycling all have agreements.

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# Sarwar sues paper over election bribery claims

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

MOHAMMED SARWAR, Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, issued a libel writ yesterday against the *News of the World*, which published claims that he paid a £5,000 bribe to a rival general election candidate.

The newspaper said that it was standing by its story, which alleged that Islam Badar, an independent candidate, was paid to fight a losing campaign to avoid splitting the Labour vote. Mr Badar was thought to be abroad yesterday.

A report into the affair is being prepared for consideration tomorrow by the Labour Party's National Executive Committee. The NEC will set up an inquiry into whether Mr Sarwar has broken Labour rules, including a new one against bringing the party into disrepute.

Mr Sarwar denies any wrongdoing and says that the police inquiry into the claims

against him will not interfere with his duties as an MP.

Yesterday as the *News of the World* passed to the fraud squad tape recordings and the £5,000 allegedly used for the bribe, further allegations were made. Jamil Abbassi, the independent Conservative candidate for Glasgow Govan, said he had been offered £50,000 not to stand by men he says were supporters of Mr Sarwar. "I refused the offer. I am a man of dignity and principle."

He said he was sure that Mr Sarwar was not personally involved, and that he knew the men but was afraid to identify them.

Peter Paton, an independent Labour candidate who has long been an opponent of Mr Sarwar, claimed he had also been approached by an intermediary acting for a key Sarwar supporter who wanted to donate "a four-figure sum" to his campaign, which he

said could have been used to compromise him. Mr Paton, who has made many accusations against Mr Sarwar in the past and has reported alleged electoral malpractice to police, said the approach was made in March. He had not told the police about it until now because he wanted to protect his source.

Yesterday Mr Sarwar said: "I have just had a meeting with my solicitors and I have instructed them to issue a writ against the *News of the World* concerning the story they published on Sunday and the totally false allegations they made against me."

The Secretary of State for Scotland has, as you are aware, asked the procurator fiscal to request that police investigate the matter. I requested that such an investigation be instigated and I welcome the move. It would be wrong of me to make any further statements until the

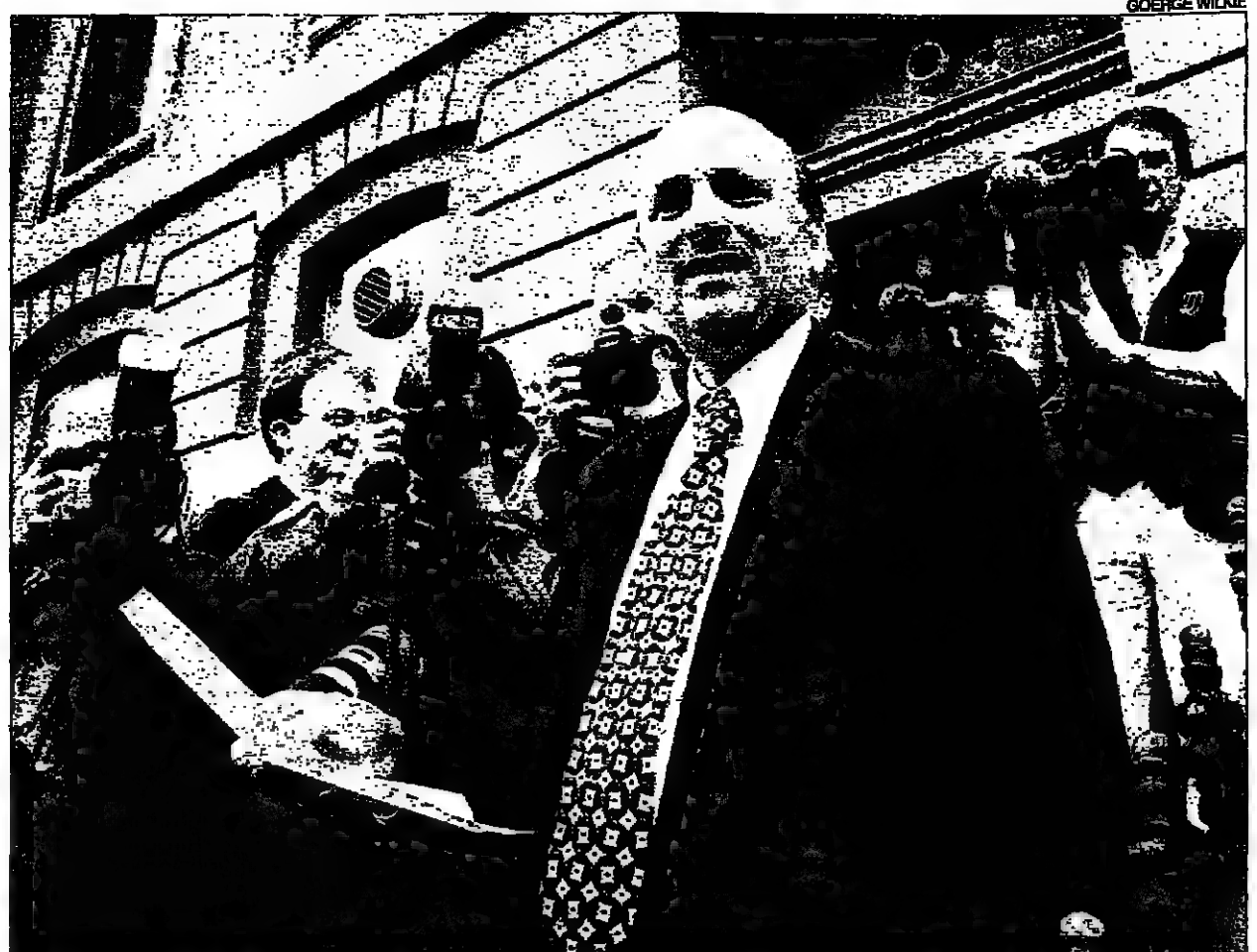
police investigation is completed."

A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Police said investigations into the bribery allegations had been requested by the Lord Advocate via the regional procurator fiscal for Glasgow and had now begun.

George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead and a friend of Mr Sarwar, said he was sure the investigation would clear the MP's name.

He said: "No one can ever be completely convinced of what their friends tell them but I have known Mohammed Sarwar a long time and I have to say that what he told me yesterday and how he explained the situation had the ring of truth."

"It struck me as inherently implausible that a man like Mohammed Sarwar would go along and hand out thousands of pounds to not canvass hard."



Mohammed Sarwar announcing his libel case to reporters outside his solicitor's office in Glasgow yesterday

## Hostilities flare again in Govan's political dirty war

By Gillian Bowditch

THERE is only one thing on which the ten candidates who stood for Glasgow Govan at the general election can agree — that the police inquiry into allegations of vote-rigging and bribery should be swiftly completed.

But given the long and bitter history of political infighting in the constituency, their hopes are unlikely to be met.

Govan, once famed for shipbuilding, now better known for the string-vest philosopher Rab C. Nesbitt, has been a Labour stronghold for decades. It also has the highest ethnic population of any of the Glasgow seats, at about 11 per cent, 9.6 per cent of whom are Asians from Pakistan.

Mohammed Sarwar won the seat at the election to become Britain's first Muslim MP with 14,216 votes, a majority of 2,914 over the Scottish Nationalists. The Tories polled 2,839 and the Liberal Democrats 1,915. The six other candidates polled less than 2,000 votes between them.

The seeds of the current dispute were sown in 1993 when the boundary commission abolished the Glasgow Central seat. The sitting MP, Mike Watson, decided to apply for the vacant nomination of Govan. He was challenged by two other candidates, Margaret Curran, a college lecturer, and Mohammed Sarwar, 44, is a successful businessman and former Labour councillor for Pollokshields, the well-heeled part of the constituency. The fight between Mr Watson and Mr Sarwar for the nomination was bitter



Badar claims Mr Sarwar gave him £5,000 bribe



Paton denies vendetta against Mr Sarwar

with allegations of intimidation and dirty tricks — which both denied. When Mr Watson won the ballot by one vote, Mr Sarwar protested. A rerun was ordered. Ms Curran pulled out and Mr Sarwar won by 82 votes. Mr Watson attempted a legal challenge which failed.

At the general election one of Mr Watson's strongest supporters, Peter Paton, decided to stand against Mr Sarwar as an independent Labour

candidate. Mr Paton, 43, describes himself as a member of the Labour Party for 24 years. But his party membership is lapsed; in the election he polled 325 votes. It was he, who originally made the allegations of electoral malpractice to police some weeks ago. He is a vociferous opponent of Mr Sarwar but denies waging a vendetta against him.

Mr Sarwar led a high-profile visit to Pakistan to rescue the girls. The girls and their mother later publicly expressed their gratitude to Mr Sarwar. Mr Haq is suing Mr Sarwar for £2 million alleging he split up the family. Mr Paton has acted as Mr Haq's press spokesman.

There are also concerns within the Sarwar camp of links between Mr Paton and Jamil Abbassi, who stood as an independent Conservative candidate in the election polling 221 votes. Campaign literature sent by both candidates came from the same fax in Mr Paton's home.

But it is a third independent candidate, Islam Badar, who is at the centre of the current allegations. A professional cricketer for Clydeside in the 1970s, Mr Badar became a businessman in the early 1980s but a string of business ventures failed. He polled only 319 votes at the election. Last week, Mr Sarwar told

the *Scotland on Sunday* newspaper that he would prove definitively that there was a dirty tricks campaign against him. He said Mr Badar would testify that another candidate, allegedly Mr Paton, was behind a smear campaign.

The newspaper insisted on sworn affidavits and while Mr Badar testified on tape that there had been a smear cam-

paign, he allegedly became extremely nervous about the affidavit, refusing to sign.

He later told the *News of the World* that Mr Sarwar gave him £5,000 last week. He claims he subsequently met Mr Sarwar and taped an incriminating conversation with him.

Mr Sarwar has denied the

claims and is taking legal action. The *News of the World* says it has the tapes and is sticking by its story.

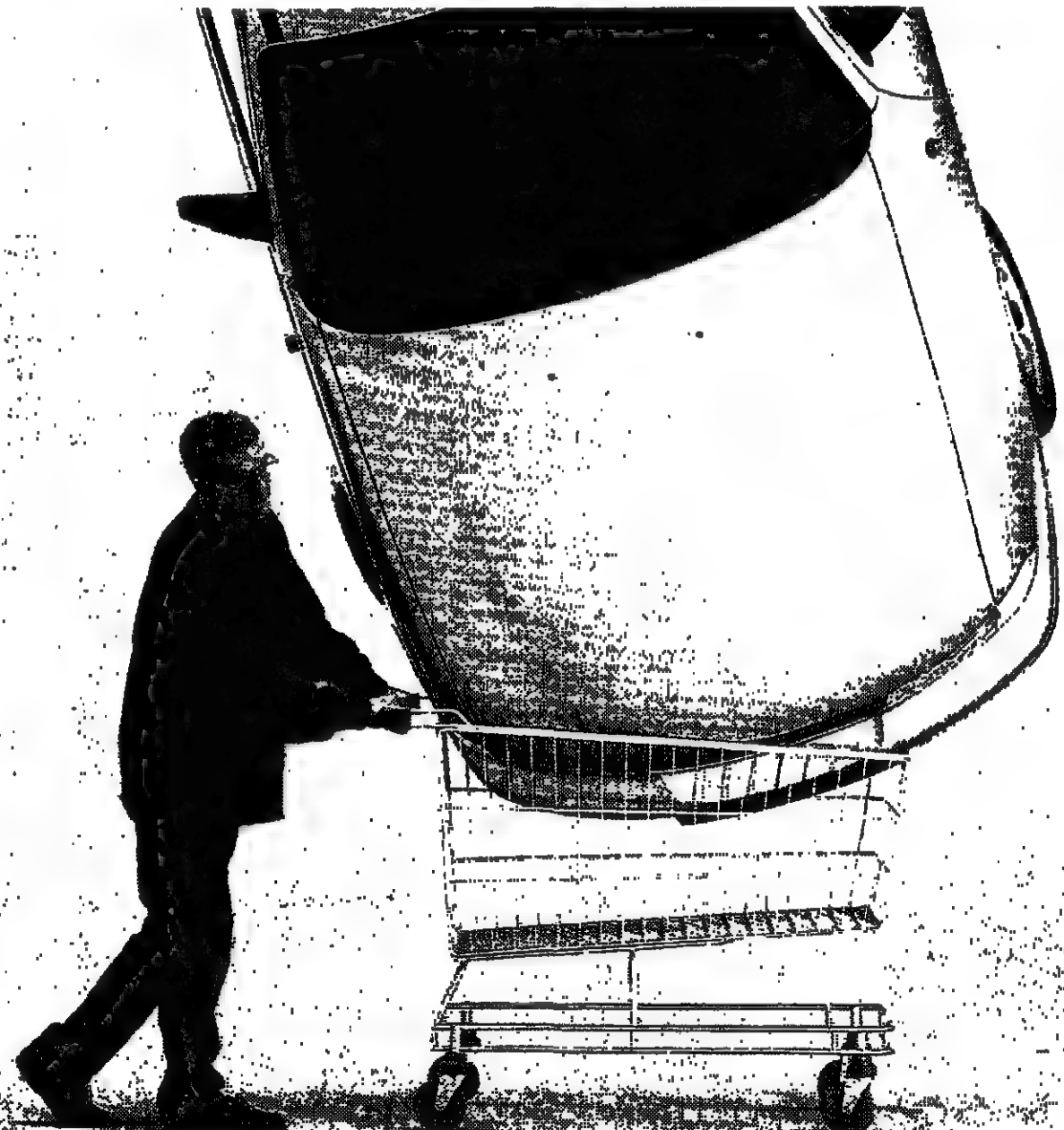
There is evidence of electoral malpractice in Govan. The police began an investigation some weeks ago after it was disclosed that "ghost" voters had been registered on the electoral role and some voters discovered that their votes had

been cast for them without their permission. There were also allegations of intimidation.

But Mr Sarwar says that from the start he instructed his team to fight the election with "honour and credibility".

Mr Sarwar's dirty tricks claims were given some credibility during the election campaign when a mysterious man

called Mohan Singh arrived in Glasgow offering £250,000 for evidence of sexual scandal involving Mr Sarwar. He left empty-handed claiming he was simply trying to make money by selling a story to the press but he admitted meeting Mr Paton and Mr Haq. Mr Paton has denied asking Mr Singh to help to discredit Mr Sarwar.



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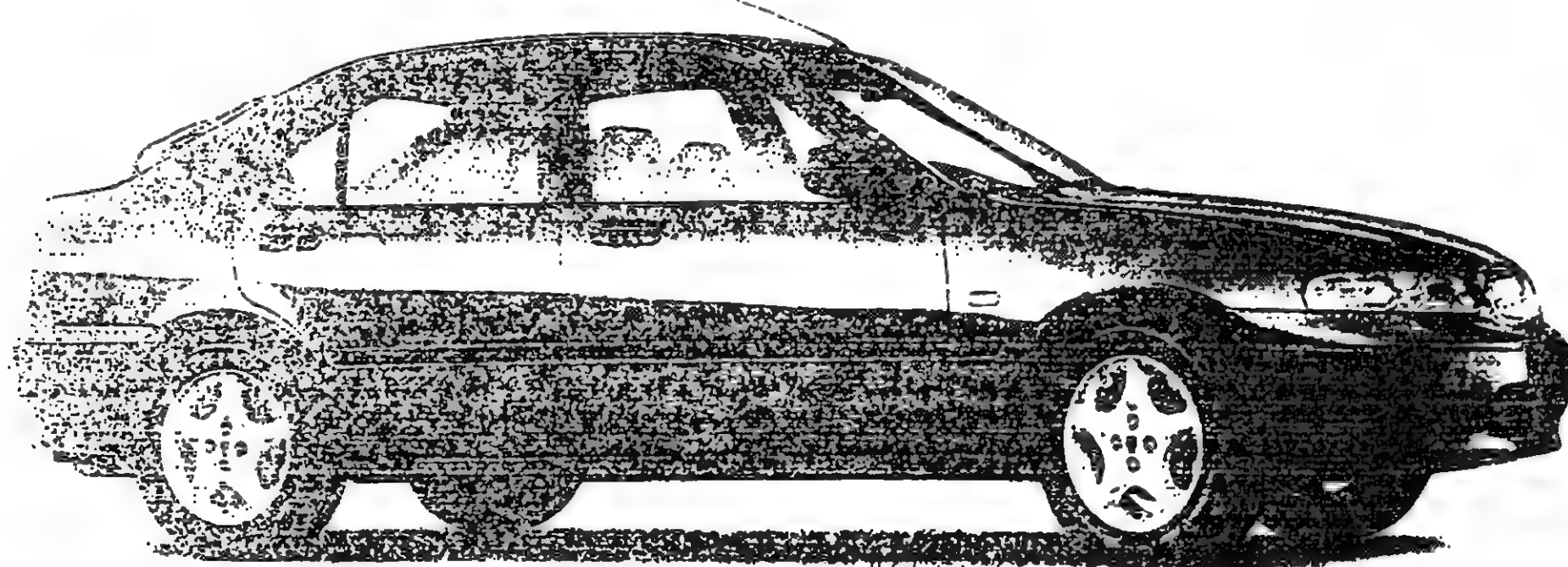
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## Giant turbines in area of natural beauty would 'damage case for crucial source of renewable energy'



The gigantic turbines, made in Germany, are already operating abroad, but would be the first of their size in Britain. Each stands 295ft tall at the blade tip — half as high again as the tallest in this country

## Green energy campaigners see red over wind farm

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYWIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE biggest wind farm in Europe, with 40 turbines half as high again as Nelson's Column, is planned for one of Britain's last great stretches of wild landscape.

Rookhope Common, in County Durham, is an area of North Pennine moorland designated as being of outstanding natural beauty, and the proposal by National Wind Power has outraged conservationists.

Five leading countryside groups have joined forces to call for tougher controls on the location of wind-energy plants. "Wind turbines now intrude into some of the most unspoilt landscapes in Britain, and the damage is set to continue unless there are real changes to the way in which the industry is financed and regulated," they say in a statement issued today.

The signatories are the Ramblers' Association, the Council for National Parks, and the Council for the Protection of Rural England, together with its two sister bodies in Scotland and Wales. They have also written to Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade. It was the Department of Trade and Industry, over which Mrs Beckett now presides, which awarded contracts earlier this year to National Wind Power to sell electricity generated by the proposed Rookhope plant.

The farm would be the first major intrusion of wind turbines into a protected land-

scape. Conservationists say that the proposal underlines the growing threat to scenic countryside by a technology that will never make more than a tiny contribution to the production of cleaner energy.

Even the keenest proponents of wind energy are appalled. Jonathan Porritt, former director of Friends of the Earth, has written to local people saying the Rookhope scheme would be seriously "damaging to the overall case for this crucial source of renewable energy".

National Wind Power is proposing to build two clusters of turbines at Rookhope, siting 15 on one ridge and 25 on a second, less than a mile to the north. Each machine would be capable of generating 1.5 megawatts (mw), a total capacity of up to 60mw.

Each turbine would consist of a tubular tower 197ft high carrying a rotor with three blades up to 98ft long, making a total height from base to blade tip of 295ft. This would be half as high again as the biggest 600 kilowatt (kw) machines now operating in Britain.

Martin Marais, development manager for the project, said: "It is a fantastic site, very high and exposed with winds averaging up to 10 metres per second. We have looked at other sites, but they are not viable because of insufficient wind speed."

The company is expected to submit a formal planning



application later this year and hopes to begin construction by 1999. Under the 1989 Electricity Act, the application would bypass the normal town and country planning procedures and be decided by the Department of Trade and Industry. Durham County Council, which is opposed to such large developments in sensitive

countryside, would have a merely consultative role.

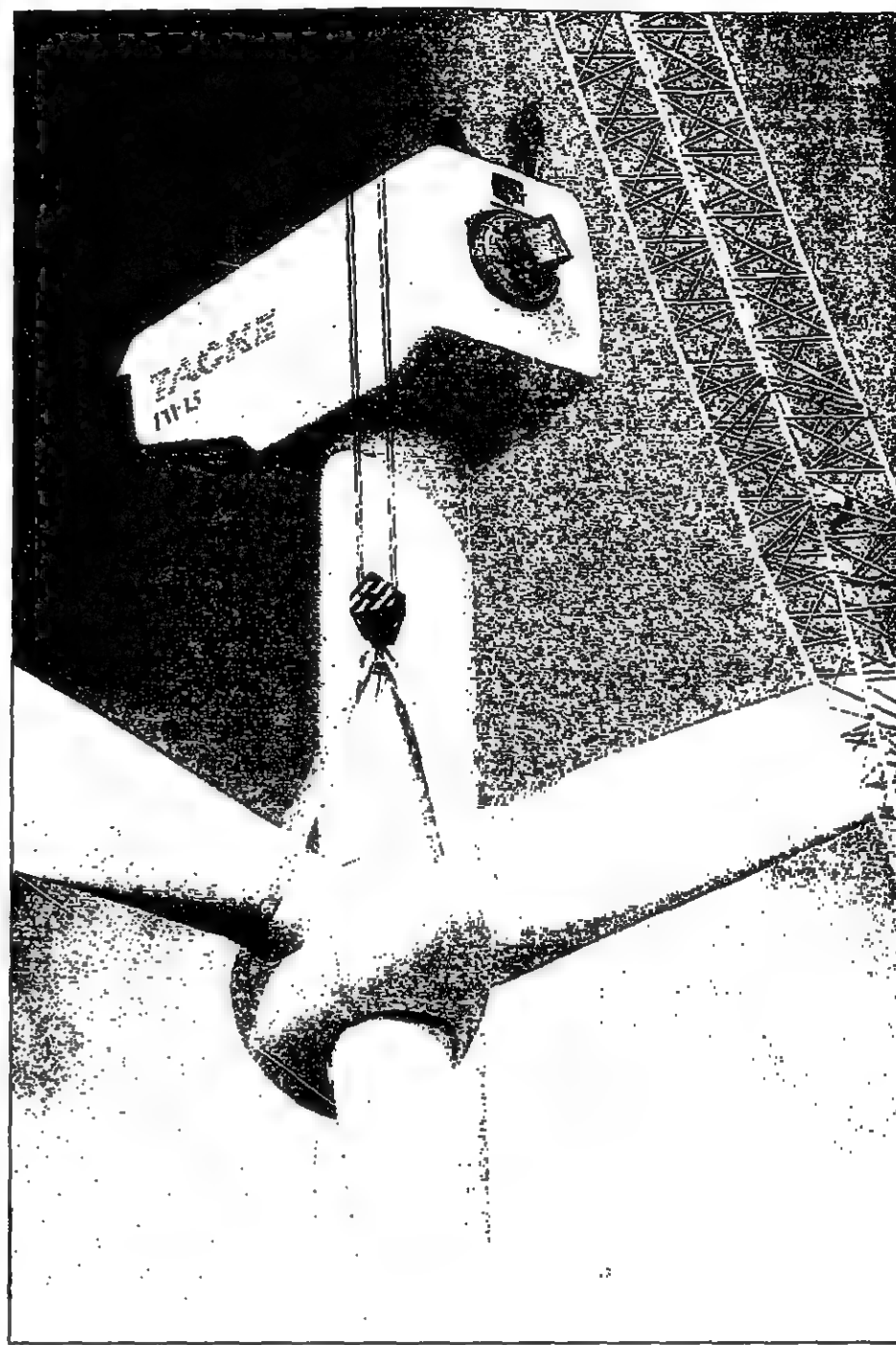
Mark Shaw, a resident of Rookhope and chairman of Preservation of Weardale, a group campaigning against the wind farm, said: "The decision on planning permission will in effect be removed from the local authority and given to the very government

department that awarded the contracts to sell electricity in the first place."

Wind power is an endlessly renewable source of energy, is safer than nuclear power and produces none of the polluting emissions associated with fossil fuels. However, farms are, by necessity, sited in some of the wildest and most beautiful landscapes in Britain, such as those in the North Pennines, the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, the Peak District, Wales, Cornwall and the Norfolk Broads. Even in these areas, wind supply is intermittent and unpredictable, making for low efficiency. Actual electricity output from Welsh wind farms in 1996 was no more than 23 per cent of capacity, according to the Government's Energy Technology Support Unit.

The Countryside Commission, the Government's adviser on land use, has calculated that the official target of deriving 10 per cent of electricity supply from wind power by 2025 would require up to 40,000 wind turbines of the size currently operating — there are 640 or so turbines now in use, mainly in Wales and Cornwall.

Even if all future turbines were to be of the gigantic size proposed for the North Pennines, some 10,000 would be needed. Even then, wind energy would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by only slightly over 3 per cent, as electricity generation is responsible for no more than 33 per cent of such pollution.



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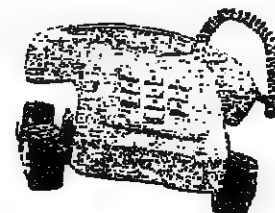
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Flinn: will reject general discharge

## B52 pilot prepared for court martial

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

KELLY FLINN, the first woman to pilot a B52 bomber, will take her chances with a court martial for adultery with a civilian if the US Air Force denies her plea for an honourable discharge. She will refuse to settle for a general discharge, indicating an anomaly on her service record, if it is offered to her, she said on the 60 Minutes CBS television programme. Her voice breaking with emotion, Lieutenant Flinn, 26 and single, said her decision to resign was the toughest she had ever made after dedicating her life to the pursuit of her dream to fly for the air force.

She believed her decision was the best way to resolve the case for both sides. "I think this will give both myself and the air force the opportunity to come to some kind of reconciliation between the two of us, and a peaceful agreement."

The air force was in no mood to grab the olive branch, despite earlier indications that it would. Air force spokesman said that her prospects for an honourable discharge were slim. The colonel presiding at her court martial in North Dakota said it would open today on schedule, though an adjournment to consider her plea would seem prudent. William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, confirmed earlier reports that it was time for the Pentagon to review relationships between men and women in the armed forces, a sure sign that the issue has become a political hot potato. There ought to be one standard and no selective enforcement, he said.

## Pentagon unveils plans for leaner war machine

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon, announcing the most comprehensive review of United States defence since the end of the Cold War, last night reached a compromise to axe dozens of bases and thousands of personnel while maintaining America's ability to fight on two fronts at the same time.

William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, said his blueprint for the 21st century would strike a balance between the present and the future by retaining sufficient forces to lead the world but also investing in a new generation of advanced weapons to combat uncertain threats on the horizon.

He said forces would be trimmed primarily in the support structure of the "tail" and modestly in the combat power of the "tooth". Mr Cohen added: "The result will be a force capable of carrying out today's missions with acceptable strategic risk while allowing us to stabilise our investment programme."

"We preserved funding for the next generation of systems, such as information systems, strike systems, mobility forces and missile defence systems, that will ensure our domination of the battlespace in 2010 and beyond."

The quadrennial defence review requires a reduction in active US Army, Navy and Air Force personnel of 60,000. Reservists would be cut by 55,000 and the Pentagon would reduce its civilian staff by 83,000. The army, how-

ever, would retain ten combat-ready divisions while the navy is to keep 12 battle carrier and amphibious-ready groups.

Under the proposal, the surface fleet will be reduced by 12 to 16 and the navy will lose 23 attack submarines, as well as almost half the planned number of 1,000 F/A-18E/F aircraft.

The Defence Secretary said that arms procurement was running at about \$15 billion (\$9 billion) below requirement while the armed forces had 15 per cent more bases than were needed.

His review, which is certain to draw criticism from military officials and Republicans in Congress, requests two additional rounds of base closures.

Funds from the closures and from troop reductions would be used to boost certain weapons programmes such as the National Missile Defence System, which the Pentagon hopes will be ready for deployment by the millennium.

The review also focused on the danger to American forces of "asymmetric threats", ranging from nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons to terrorist attacks and information warfare.

Mr Cohen declared: "America begins the millennium as the sole superpower, the indispensable nation." He added: "The responsibilities are heavy and the choices difficult, but with these choices come enormous benefits and opportunities."

### WHERE THE AXE WILL FALL

THE main elements of the report sent to Congress are:

- Two new rounds of domestic military base closures in 1999 and 2001 to save money for new high-tech arms.
- Cut of 61,700 troops from 1.4 million-member active-duty armed forces. Air Force will lose 26,900, Navy 18,000, Army 15,000 and Marine Corps 1,800.
- National Guard and Reserves cut by 54,000, including 45,000 from Army, and 60,800 civilians employed by services will go.
- Current strategy of forward-deployed forces retained, including 100,000 in Europe and 100,000 in western Pacific, prepared to fight

and win two wars at once.

- Some reductions, but no cancellations outlined, in Air Force F22 "stealth" fighters being developed by Lockheed Martin, Navy F/A-18E/F fighters built by McDonnell Douglas and Marine Corps V-22 tilt-rotor helicopters built by Boeing and Textron.
- Long-range plans retained for expected \$170 billion joint strike fighter programme that Lockheed, Martin and Boeing are competing to build in the next century.
- Twelve aircraft carriers kept in Navy; and the Air Force's present plans to increase B2 "stealth" bomber fleet to 21 aircraft does not change. (Reuters)



Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, with Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, in Washington yesterday

## Cook delivers warning on Bosnia

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday delivered an unequivocal message to the Clinton Administration that if the US withdrew troops from Bosnia, British and other European countries would pull out too.

"I do not want anyone in the US to be under any misapprehension: the principle is one out, all out. We were there before US troops arrived, and it was an uncomfortable and lonely place to be," he said.

In a private meeting yesterday morning, William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, said he appreciated the dangers of an early withdrawal of troops, but it could be politically

impossible for President Clinton to keep them there. Mr Cook said it was too early to say whether the integration process under the Dayton agreement would have gone far enough to allow troops to leave next year.

Mr Cook, the first Cabinet minister of the new Labour Government to visit Washington, said the Administration wished Labour well and that he found "no substantial differences of opinion". He added that he had wanted to come to Washington, if only for a day, "to signal that we want to have a strong working relationship with one of our oldest allies".

On Hong Kong, Mr Cook

said: "We will be looking for US support to make sure that Britain's agreements with China are respected and that Hong Kong people retain civil liberties, they have come to expect."

But he emphasised that whatever pressure the US puts on China, "we are anxious that the Most Favoured Nation agreement continues". He said that removing MFN trading privileges from China would damage the Hong Kong economy and hurt its people.

Mr Cook said that he planned to attend the handover from British to Chinese rule on June 30 and that

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, might also attend.

Yesterday Mr Cook and the Clinton Administration issued a joint declaration on clearing up the unsolved mystery of Nazi gold. Mr Cook said that in working towards the new Europe, "we must also put right remaining injustices from the period when Europe was divided and at war".

Ahead of the planned visit to Washington by Majorie Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, at the end of this week, Mr Cook reiterated the Government's insistence that Sirm Fein could not enter talks until an IRA ceasefire had been declared.

## Mongolian reformer ousted

BY JAMES PRINGLE

THE former Communist Party scored a decisive victory in Mongolia's presidential election, marking a setback for the vast, landlocked country's free-market economic reforms. But the win was hardly a surprise given the stringency of economic "shock therapy" introduced by the Democratic Union Coalition, which won a surprise victory in parliamentary elections in June last year.

Natsagjin Bagabandi, the Soviet-educated leader of the formerly hardline Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP), won almost 51 per

cent of the vote, with President Ochirbat, of the four-party DUC, receiving a stinging rebuff with just under 30 per cent. J. Gombojav, an ultranationalist, won 6.6 per cent.

Mr Bagabandi, a specialist in food technology, had pledged that he would try to slow down government reforms that had created widespread economic dislocation. He had promised to re-introduce a safety net for the elderly, poor and unemployed. Mr Bagabandi, who was praised even by Democratic Coalition MPs as a moderate,

wants to increase spending on social programmes, but Mr Ochirbat has said the Government must not afford to do so. This view is backed up by foreign envoys.

The extent to which some DUC ideologues, many influenced by the American Republican Party which has an office in Ulan Bator, tried to push free market reforms, seemed to defy common sense, observers noted. "In under a year, the Democrats, by the excess of their zeal to reform, seemed to sow the seeds of their own destruction," one analyst said.



Bagabandi victory for former Communists

## 'Angel' of flood town is named

New York: The anonymous donor who last month gave \$15 million (\$9 million) to rebuild the flood-ravaged town of Grand Forks, North Dakota, has been identified as Joan Kroc, the widow of the man who founded the McDonald's fast food chain (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Mrs Kroc, who came to be known as "the Angel of Grand Forks", had also given \$2,000 to each family affected by the disaster, but had insisted on anonymity. Yesterday the Mayor presented her with a sweat-shirt that read: "I helped rebuild Grand Forks". Immensely rich, she gave away \$33 million to a number of charities last year alone.

## Historic scroll given to Met

New York: A Chinese silk scroll from the 10th century, an object so rare that its owner once hoped he could barter it for the release from China of his detained son, has been donated to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The museum will soon have the most comprehensive collection of Chinese paintings outside China.

## Air crash at Brazil show

Rio de Janeiro: Two small aircraft crashed in mid-air at an airport in Brazil's southern Santa Catarina state, killing all 12 passengers as well as one woman on the ground who died of the bodies fell on top of her, an airport spokesman said. The crash happened at celebrations marking the airport's 55th anniversary. (Reuters)

## 335 killed in army attacks

Colombo: Sri Lankan security forces renewed artillery attacks against suspected Tamil Tiger guerrilla positions in the island's north yesterday as the death toll in the latest army operation climbed to 335, officials said here. The Defence Ministry said that the separatist rebels had lost at least 250 of their fighters in the army's biggest-ever ground offensive. (AFP)

## Ice rescue for whalers

Anchorage: Helicopters off northern Alaska rescued 142 whale hunters after ice cracked and they drifted out to sea. The rescue took more than seven hours in fog. The whalers used hand-held global positioning systems to guide rescuers. "Every time they took a load of people, we were in a different place by the time they got back," said a stranded rescue team member. (AP)

## Eight arrests at horse cull

Wellington: Eight animal lovers were arrested for trespassing as a round-up aimed at culling 1,200 of wild horses began on an arid 150 miles north of here. Most of the horses will be slaughtered for pet food. The herd, descended mainly from military horses, was until recently protected, but conservationists say the horses are destroying rare native plants. (AP)

## US envoy despairs for Middle East peace

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

MARTIN INDYK, America's influential Ambassador to Israel, admitted in remarks published yesterday that the 1993 peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed with flourish on the White House lawn had finally broken down.

Mr Indyk's verdict, the most pessimistic yet made by the Clinton Administration about the Middle East peace process, came as the Palestinian police were investigating the second mafia-style execution within a fortnight of a Palestinian suspected of selling land to Jews.

the killing of Harby Abu-Sara, a land dealer, shot several times in the head and

dumped in the self-rule Palestinian city of Ramallah, came after the similar murder of Farid Bashidi, 70, on May 9. Both killings followed a Palestinian Authority edict that selling land to Jews was a capital offence.

"This is a horrible development," Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, told a Knesset committee. "I think it is ghastly, monstrous to issue a law that says that anyone who sells land to Jews should be executed."

Mr Netanyahu added: "And what is worse is that not only are these laws promulgated, they appear to be followed through, and the recent murder of two innocent people for the sale of land, at the behest

of the Palestinian Authority, is absolutely unacceptable."

Earlier, Mr Indyk said of the 1993 peace deal initially negotiated in Norway. "The Oslo package has crumbled and there are no quick fixes possible. The core bargain of Oslo has broken down — Israel is promised security and the Palestinians were promised self-government."

In a separate reflection of American despair with the reluctance of either side to make the necessary gestures to rebuild trust, Samuel Berger, the US National Security Adviser, brushed off President Arafat's dramatic appeal to President Clinton to intervene personally to rescue the peace accord. "Presidential involvement is happening every day," Mr Berger said.

The new spate of executions of Arab land dealers has further soured a bad atmosphere and spread panic among many Palestinian land agents who in the past have worked with the Israelis. A senior Israeli police source said: "Palestinian merchants are turning to us and asking protection from murder."

Mr Bashidi was found dead in Ramallah after being lured from an hotel in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem by a female Palestinian security agent in an operation described by one security source as a "classic honey trap". His skull was crushed, his hands tied behind his back and his mouth sealed with plastic tape.

## Octogenarian disputes Florida swim record

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AN INDIGNANT American man, 84, has disputed the record claimed by Susie Maroney, the Australian long-distance swimmer, who was hailed last week as the first person to swim unassisted across the Straits of Florida, which separate Cuba and the mainland America.

Walter Poesch, who lives in Grove City, Ohio, has declared: "She's a pretty good swimmer, but she's not the first to make that swim. I was."

The octogenarian, who was paralysed seven years ago and is now confined to a wheelchair, asserts that he made the crossing in 1978, when he was 63. His timing, 34 hours and 15 minutes, compares unfavourably with

that of Miss Maroney, who took only 24 hours and 20 minutes. But Mr Poesch took a longer route — 138 miles in, he says — and says that he had unfavourable currents.

Mr Poesch's claim has always been dogged by controversy, as he lacked an independent observer to verify his record. Like Miss Maroney, he swam in a shark-proof metal cage that was dragged by a boat ahead of him. But he was accompanied only by the boat's captain, a friend and his wife.

The Guinness Book of Records did, nonetheless, credit him with the Florida Straits swim in its American editions from 1979 to 1991, but dropped him thereafter.

## British bomb expert in Oklahoma trial

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

LINDA JONES, a British forensic science expert, was set to take centre stage in the trial of Timothy McVeigh as the prosecution case against the chief suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing entered its final phase yesterday.

Ms Jones, principal forensic investigator at the Ministry of Defence explosives laboratory at Fort Halstead in Kent, is seen as a pivotal independent witness against Mr McVeigh, 29, who is alleged to have detonated the bomb that killed 168 adults and children on April 19, 1995.

Prosecutors hope that Ms Jones's testimony will shore up evidence from the FBI crime laboratory, which last month was accused of sloppy procedures and biased conclu-

sions in its evaluation of the explosion at the Alfred P. Murrah Building.

Ms Jones is a veteran of countless IRA bomb investigations and was last year awarded the OBE for her 23 years of service at the MoD. She has examined fragments from the 4,000lb ammonium nitrate bomb and is expected during her testimony in Denver this week to counter criticism of the laboratory and attempt to establish explosives residue and other evidence linking Mr McVeigh to the bombing.

But Stephen Jones, the chief defence lawyer, has said that the laboratory had contaminated, abused and manipulated the evidence against his client and "engaged in forensic prostitution".

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# Kabila 'to enter Kinshasa today without bloodshed', says Mandela

By JAN RAATH IN HARARE  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

**LAURENT KABILA**, the victorious Zairean rebel leader, is to enter Kinshasa today, President Mandela of South Africa said yesterday, and gave an assurance that the self-proclaimed head of state would do so peacefully.

"It seems everything is going according to plan," Mr Mandela said after an hour's meeting with President Mugabe in the Zimbabwean capital where he is on a state visit. "As far as he is concerned, he will enter Kinshasa without bloodshed. His troops have been acknowledged, even by his enemies, as being disciplined, and they have been courteous," Mr Mandela said. He added that Mr Kabila would address the nation at 9pm local time tomorrow.

Mr Mandela, whose Government was the first to recognise the Alliance of Democratic Forces for Congo-Zaire after its troops seized Kinshasa on Saturday, also gave Mr Kabila a powerful personal endorsement. In an address to the Zimbabwean parliament, he urged MPs to reject "the adverse publicity he is getting from certain quarters, for obvious reasons".

Mr Mandela, who was kept waiting by Mr Kabila during the failed peace talks with the deposed President Mobutu in the past fortnight, said he was speaking "as one who has been involved in negotiations in that country". He said: "I want to assure you that President Kabila is handling the question of assuming power in that country, uniting it and addressing the problems of the poor in an excellent manner. He has lived up to the expectations of those who are patriotic enough to be guided by facts and not fiction."

The ailing Mr Mobutu was reported to be resting in Togo at the residence of his old friend, Gnassingbe Eyadema, the West African state's dictator. He fled there after rebels seized his jungle palace in northern Zaire.

His eldest son and 109 members of his family were said to be stuck across the river from Kinshasa, in Brazzaville, Congo, because a flight crew supposed to fly them onwards refused to have anything more to do with the Mobutus.

Government officials in Togo, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr Mobutu would not stay in the country for more than a few days. They did not yet know his ultimate destination. Togo state television earlier said that Mr Mobutu had only briefly stopped in the country on his way to Rabat, the Moroccan capital. It reported that he had slipped out of his home village of Gbadolite late on Saturday night in a cargo plane just ahead of Mr Kabila's troops, and flew to Togo.

The television report said the ousted leader was awakened by gunfire late on Saturday night and was afraid that rebel troops had entered his village and were closing in on his palace. The rebels fired on his departing plane.

Vienna: Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, said the world body was ready to work with a new government in Zaire and appealed to the international community to help the country on the road to recovery. He said he was pleased that there had been no major bloodshed in Kinshasa as rebel forces took control of the capital. (Reuters)

## Rebel tells of 800-mile march to freedom in gum boots

DAVID ORR IN KINSHASA

AS SOLDIERS of the defeated Zairean Armed Forces surrendered their weapons outside a military barracks in Kinshasa yesterday, one of the victors told of his role in the campaign to overthrow President Mobutu.

Amisi Chalondawa was one of a number of fighters who looked on as men in civilian clothes came forward in single file and dumped their arms on a pile containing thousands of Kalashnikov rifles.

"I killed some of the enemy," he said. "And some of my comrades died in the fighting. One lost an arm in a grenade blast and another disappeared in the jungle. But we fought to free the country, we did it for our families and the whole population."

Mr Chalondawa, 22, was among the advance units of the rebel alliance which last Saturday captured the capital of Zaire (since renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo). His story gives a rare insight into the insurgency of Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader who has just declared himself President of Africa's third-largest nation. "It also affords a glimpse of the personal motivation of a man who took part in the epic struggle to overthrow one of the world's most reviled dictators."

"I first heard of Kabila from my boss at the petrol station

where I worked in Rutshuru," Mr Chalondawa said. "He joined the [rebel] alliance and he told me all about him. Soon after Rutshuru was liberated last September I signed up."

Mr Chalondawa is the youngest of seven children who were born and raised in eastern Zaire. His father's job in the civil service obliged the Amisi family to move from town to town until finally they settled in Rutshuru on the Ugandan border. In his late teens Mr Chalondawa went to nearby Goma to study mechanical engineering, but lack of funds forced him to abandon the course.

"The fees were \$25 (now about £15) a term," he says. "My father's income was only \$1 a month. Sometimes he had to go and ask for his pay and when he did that he would be beaten up by the army. The way they treated him made me very angry. He supplemented his salary by growing and selling vegetables but it still wasn't enough. He supported my decision to join the alliance. He told him that I could be independent that way."

The insurgency of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire began as a localised 'self-defence' campaign by the Banyamulenge, a community of ethnic Tutsis, in eastern Zaire. Mr Chalondawa belongs to the Rega tribe but



A young soldier of Laurent Kabila's victorious rebels examines a pile of guns confiscated from the headquarters of President Mobutu's elite guard in Kinshasa yesterday

identified with the goals which the struggle quickly embraced: the overthrow of President Mobutu and the destruction of his corrupt regime. Supported by his regional allies, Mr Kabila was able to give his uprising the impetus of a multi-ethnic national movement. Mr Chalondawa received two months' training in weaponry, tactics and self-defence in the forest west of Rutshuru. He says his military instructors were Rwandans, though other groups were trained by Ugandans, Tanzanians and Angolans. By November Mr Chalondawa was considered ready for the front and was dispatched to his birthplace,

Butembo, 25 miles from the Ugandan border. Over the next six months he covered hundreds of miles, sometimes by aircraft but more often by foot. During that time he took part in a number of battles but says that mostly the Zairean troops ran away.

He estimates he walked nearly 800 miles through jungle and bush in his one pair of rubber boots before arriving in Kinshasa.

"Many of our men died on the way," he says. "They just got exhausted and died. There was a lot of malaria and dysentery. Sometimes we'd go for four days with nothing but a few biscuits to eat."

Mr Chalondawa has not yet been paid and says he has no idea when he will receive his first salary. He intends to stay in the army.

"I'm happy to be here in Kinshasa," he says, gazing around at the big houses and high-rise buildings. "I would have preferred if Mobutu had not fled so we could have arrested and punished him. But the main thing is he's gone."

## New leaders take Africa's destiny into their own hands

The victorious Laurent Kabila joins a network of men determined to end Central Africa's chaos, writes Sam Kiley

FRANCE'S once strong influence in Africa has waned dramatically, with its ally, Mobutu Sese Seko, deposed and on the run.

However, if Washington and London believe their African stars are rising, they may be mistaken. For the first time in a century, African leaders are starting to take charge of the destiny of the continent.

The fall of Zaire to the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire completes a network of friends and allies stretching from Angola to Eritrea who are expected to reshape the continent in an image of their own, and scrub out the colonial map of Africa drawn up at Bismarck's Berlin conference of European powers in 1884.



Museveni: ready to take out Savimbi's forces



Kagame: helped to drive out Uganda rebels



Garang: won backing for Sudan revolt

By dint of his victory in Kinshasa, Laurent Kabila has joined a growing firmament of African leaders disinclined to take orders from outside powers. Civil war, mayhem and famine last year provoked Washington to call on Africa's leaders to come up with African solutions to their problems.

The State Department even offered to pay for a standing army of African peacekeepers who could intervene to prevent the horrific collapse of state power, as seen in Liberia and Somalia or state-sponsored genocide as in

Rwanda. Led by President Museveni of Uganda, a clique of African leaders, all men of well-known military prowess who in most cases fought their way into office, made the peacekeeping idea redundant. They have embarked on an ambitious offensive to wipe

out the chaos of Central Africa.

In November last year Washington gave diplomatic support to the mainly Tutsi rebellion in eastern Zaire which grew into a revolution and toppled Mr Mobutu last weekend. As a result French officials saw an "Anglophone conspiracy" behind Mr Kabila's movement in which Britain supplied the know-how of the imperial era, and Americans the money and military training necessary for the Tutsis to storm across Zaire in only seven months.

There may be some truth in the conspiracy theory. Among the beneficiaries of Zaire's change of regime have been George Bush, who along with former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, is a member of the advisory board of Toronto-based Barrick Gold, which bought a gold concession for 80,000 square kilometres in northeast Zaire from the then rebels. Few, if any, French companies have been given access to Zaire's mineral rights.

But the conspiracy is deeper and more subtle. Mr

Museveni's close friend and former comrade in arms, is Major General Paul Kagame, Rwanda's Vice-President and Minister of Defence. Clearing Rwandan Hutu extremists and Ugandan rebel groups from camps inside Zaire, while backing Mr Kabila's rebellion, made sense to the Central African leaders.

Further north, Uganda continues to suffer bombing raids from Sudan's Islamic Government because of Mr Museveni's support for John

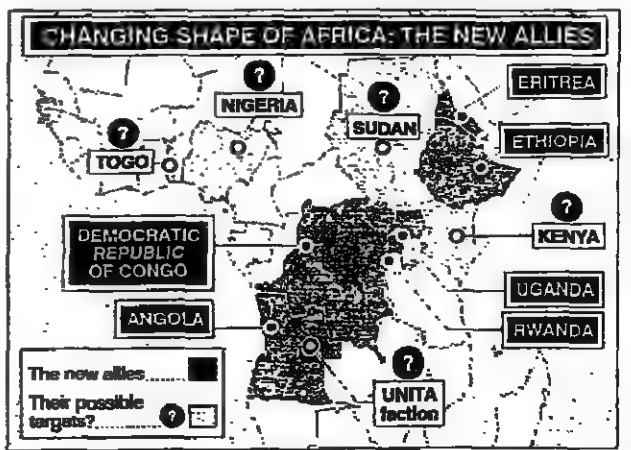
Garang, south Sudan's rebel leader fighting for autonomy.

Eritrea's Issias Aferwerki and Ethiopia's Meles Zenawi, former comrades in the Ethiopian civil war and also close friends of the Ugandan President, sent troops into Sudan to drive away an Islamic threat.

Now, with Mr Mobutu gone and Mr Kabila the new President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (the name Zaire was known by before Mr Mobutu came to power) the stage is set for another showdown with what Mr Museveni and his clique see as a destabilising rebel group in Africa: Jonas Savimbi's Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita).

Angolan troops fought alongside Mr Kabila's men in Zaire, while Unita troops fought a last stand for Mr Mobutu. President Santos of Angola is unlikely to resist the temptation to attack Unita's bases in the north and west of his country now that Mr Mobutu, a long-standing Unita ally, has gone. The "new African" leaders have said publicly that the borders drawn up at Bismarck's conference may be redrawn. In Rwanda President Bizimungu, a Hutu, suggested adding North and South Kivu to Rwanda.

"What's worrying us is we don't know where, or when, these men are going to stop. Will they try to take on every bad guy on the continent? Is Sani Abacha [Nigeria's military ruler] next? How comfortable is Mr [Daniel arap] Moi in Kenya? Is he on their hit list?", asked one Western ambassador in Kinshasa last night.



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## Korea scandal traps another official as President's clean crusade crumbles



Kim Young Sam: his presidency is crippled

By ROBERT WHYMANT

SOUTH Korean prosecutors yesterday arrested a former top government security official on bribery charges in a scandal that has ensnared a son of President Kim Young Sam and diminished presidential credibility.

Kim Ki Sup, a former deputy director of the Agency for National Security Planning, is suspected of collecting \$169,000 (£103,000) in exchange for helping a businessman to win a government licence for a cable television station.

The former security official was a close associate of Kim Hyun

Chul, the President's second son, who is also accused taking kickbacks from the businessman. Kim Hyun Chul, 37, was arrested last Saturday on charges of pocketing \$3.6 million in bribes and evading \$15 million in taxes. Prosecutors say they plan to question the two men, now being held in the same prison in Seoul, about \$16.3 million in more than 100 bank accounts. Investigators are also looking into allegations made by opposition parties that Kim Ki Sup leaked sensitive government information to his friend in the presidential palace.

Kim junior never held a govern-

ment post, but was known to be President Kim's most trusted adviser. His meddling in state affairs earned him the scornful title of "little President". Kim Ki Sup resigned from the powerful spy agency in March after questions about his relationship with the President's son.

President Kim is not directly implicated in the bribery scandal, but it deals yet another blow to his credibility as a crusader against corruption. His presidency is already crippled by a corruption scandal in which 11 senior businessmen and politicians are charged with giving or taking

bribes in exchange for arranging bank loans to Hanbo Steel Industry Company. The company collapsed in January with debts of \$5.6 billion, exposing corruption by senior government officials.

South Korea has essentially had to telescope 100 years of development into a tenth of that time. The system of *chaebol*, or large conglomerates, being given carte blanche to develop the country's industries after the Korean War under the mantra of catching up with Japan led to close relationships between government and industry that do not exist in developed economies. This has

house system of developing the economy was destined to breed corruption.

Yesterday prosecutors demanded long prison terms for the "immoral" defendants, who include a former Cabinet minister and three top aides to President Kim. The prosecution sought a 20-year prison sentence for Chung Tae Soo, 74, the founder of the Hanbo Group, who allegedly scattered bribes among bankers and politicians to keep loans rolling in.

This is a large-scale corruption case perpetrated by a collaboration of immoral politicians, bankers and corporate executives," Park

San Gil, the prosecutor, told a court in Seoul. "It has even damaged the nation's reputation."

The Hanbo scandal, now compounded by the arrest of his son, has severely wounded President Kim, who swept to power four years ago under the banner of clean government. It has reduced him to a caretaker President until the election in December. By law, Mr Kim cannot run for a second term.

□ Opposition choice: Kim Dae Jung, the opposition leader, was chosen by his party to fight the presidential election. It will be Mr Kim's fourth try. (Reuters)

## Defecting general boosts Taleban's chances of victory

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL Abdul Rashid Dostum, leader of northern Afghanistan and the last bulwark against the fundamentalist Taleban Islamic militia, faced a potentially disastrous mutiny by one of his key commanders last night. It is the first crack in the military alliance, backed by Russia and Iran, that controls a third of the country.

General Abdul Malik, the alliance's spokesman on foreign affairs, announced that he had defected to Taleban for the sake of "national unity". Echoing Taleban's tirades, he called General Dostum a "bad Muslim" and the main obstacle to peace in Afghanistan. This is the most serious blow to the alliance, which includes Burhanuddin Rabbani, the former President, since its formation seven months ago.

General Malik said the alliance's forces had been disarmed in his own province of Faryab. He claimed to have the support of General Dostum's "inner circle". If true, the gates of northern Afghanistan could soon swing open for the final Taleban advance.

News of the split will alarm Central Asian states, Russia, Iran and India, which all have their reasons for worrying about Taleban's consolidation

in Afghanistan. The militia captured two-thirds of the country more by bribing than fighting, proof that it has substantial outside resources. Private Saudi money is probably one source of cash. There is also substantial income from opium, which provides most of the heroin used in Europe.

This is a dangerous time for

**6 It is the first crack in the military alliance that is backed by the Russians and Iran**

General Dostum. The snow has melted in the mountain passes that have protected him all winter from Taleban's forces, and a military push against him could be imminent. Central Asian states have sealed their borders, fearing that large numbers of people will seek refuge.

Mazar-i-Sharif, which appeared to be calm last night as news of the revolt came

through, is a mud-brick town where alcohol is openly on sale. General Dostum, who drives a bullet-proof black Cadillac imported from Germany, is fond of Scotch. Women are allowed to work and do not have to wear the veil. Gambling is also allowed. Such practices lay behind Taleban's repeated assertion that General Dostum is a bad Muslim.

He is also despised by many Afghans because he was a Communist commander in the former Russian-backed regime of Muhammad Najibullah, who was tortured and murdered by Taleban late last year. Najibullah was left publicly hanging by the neck for two days in Kabul, and Taleban leaders have said that General Dostum faces a similar fate if caught.

Uzbekistan would clearly offer sanctuary if his regime were toppled, as would Tajikistan, both of which have supplied military assistance. Russia has given him heavy armoury and technical support, including the repairing of launchers for his Scud long-range missiles, which are all but useless in the kind of war he faces with Taleban.

The Afghan Islamic Press Agency in Islamabad reported that General Malik's fighters had arrested several of General Dostum's commanders. General Dostum, who lives with his wife and children outside Mazar-i-Sharif, is popular among Uzbeks and Tajiks in his fiefdom, but he cannot rely on the loyalty of Pashtuns, who are a substantial minority in the north.

The north is effectively a different country. Mazar-i-Sharif has electricity, the shops are full of a variety of goods and there is a local economy of sorts, although the currency has had to be propped up by dollars sent by Iran to prevent its collapse.



Villagers wait for family members to return from fishing off Chittagong in the cyclone-swept Bay of Bengal yesterday

## Thousands flee Bangladesh cyclone

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

A CYCLONE tore through Bangladesh last night, leaving death and devastation over a wide area. It formed in the Bay of Bengal and moved into the city of Cox's Bazaar, knocking out telephone communications. Winds reached 150mph, tossing stum homes over large distances.

As many as 300,000 people were evacuated before the storm hit. There are insufficient cyclone shelters for everybody and poor people are often reluctant to heed warnings issued by siren and over the radio for fear of losing their land and possessions to squatters. Some of the world's

most devastating natural disasters have been caused by cyclones in Bangladesh.

The city of Chittagong also lost its telephone links, making it impossible for the authorities to assess accurately the scale of the disaster or to estimate the number of deaths and injuries. A tidal surge submerged the island of St Martin and adjacent islands, sweeping away trees and electricity poles.

Wind speeds increased as the storm hit the coast, a constantly changing delta that attracts the land-hungry poor despite the annual danger of cyclones. A disaster alert was given over much of the country as the cyclone neared the

coast. Thousands of residents huddled in their homes by oil lamps and candles after electricity supplies were knocked out, awaiting the main deluge.

The runway at Chittagong airport was submerged beneath sea water, and any serious damage to it will hamper relief efforts. Tidal surges flooded a vast area of the south. Telephone communications failed as the storm progressed, giving an indication of its severity.

A chronic lack of cyclone shelters, which are built out of thick concrete, regularly forces people to abandon their homes or brave deadly storms. Bangladesh has built large numbers of additional

shelters in recent years but it may never be able to construct enough for everybody, given the rapid increases in population.

The entire administration of southeastern Bangladesh, the area that seems to have taken the worst battering, was on red alert. Army and navy personnel joined civilian workers in rescue operations. Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the Prime Minister, postponed a trip overseas because of the disaster. In 1991 an estimated 139,000 people were killed in a cyclone that devastated the southeastern coast, ranking it one of the worst natural disasters on record in the world.

## Gurkhas reduced to work as servants

FROM CATHERINE FIELD IN HONG KONG

PENSIONS awarded to former Gurkha troops in the British Army are so inadequate that they are now competing with Filipino women for jobs as domestic servants in Hong Kong.

More than 200 former Gurkhas have returned to Hong Kong from Nepal to work as cooks, gardeners and drivers for wealthy families after being unable to support their families on British Army pensions of between £15 and £20 a month. Their British former comrades-in-arms get £475 a month.

"We are here as domestics because our pension is very low," said Khushman Gurung, who joined the British Army in 1960 and retired in 1993 when Gurkhas were being phased out of Hong Kong. "This should open the eyes of the British Government about the way they treat Gurkha soldiers."

The Gurkhas receive between £416 and £566 a month as domestic servants. Mr Gurung says Hong Kong employers are attracted to the Nepalese fighters because of their reputation for discipline, loyalty and likeable manner. The Hong Kong Immigration Department says the territory has 439 domestic helpers from Nepal, compared with only 32 in December 1990.

Ricky Lai, whose Artform employment agency has found servants' jobs for more than 100 former Gurkhas, said: "People like employing Gurkhas because they have trained as soldiers and have worked in Hong Kong before, so know the city. Chinese like employing Gurkhas because they are honest and they aren't interested in knowing about their background or where they got their money from."

"Nowadays, some Hong Kong people don't like to hire Chinese people because they ask too many questions about their money."

The Gurkhas' pension is calculated according to a 1947 agreement between Britain, India and Nepal which states that Nepalese soldiers in the British Army must receive the same pensions and benefits as those in the Indian Army.

Gurkha regiments were the backbone of Hong Kong's garrison since its headquarters was set up in 1947.

A further 50 Gurkhas have been hired as security guards in Macau, the Portuguese enclave across the Pearl River from Hong Kong, where they work in its casinos.

£120,000 award: Chitral Limbu, 46, a former Gurkha captain in the British Army, was awarded £120,000 after suing the Hong Kong Government and its catering equipment suppliers for burns he received which cost him his job. (AFP)

## Frenchman jumps at chance to sell Albanian frogs

FROM TOM WALKER IN DURRES

AMONG the first exports to emerge from Albania's economic gloom are live frogs — up to three tons a day, destined for the dinner tables of France.

The Albafrog company is the brainchild of Julien Roche, a French entrepreneur, and is unlikely to please the local authorities. Its corporate logo depicts a frog leaning on a concrete bunker while holding a Kalashnikov assault rifle. A French tricolour is wrapped around its chest.

Over the past chaotic months M Roche, whose other business interests include mobile telephones and

a private airline, has been biding secret negotiations with the legions of frog catchers making a living from the nation's vast coastal marshlands. He said he and his partners have invested more than £150,000 in Albafrog.

The French love affair with *les grenouilles albanaises* dates back more than 30 years, to the days when a mysterious "Monsieur Arthus" would tour the Albanian marshes with his refrigerated lorry. Since 1991 an Albanian family in the southern port of Vlore has exported up to 50 tons of frogs a year, but this year, with Vlore firmly in rebel hands, its collecting lorries are unlikely to make the hazardous trip north into territo-

ries not just infested with frogs but also President Berisha's loyalists.

"It's a beautiful market," said M Roche in his seafront villa adjacent to the President's summer residence. "The limits are determined not by demand but how much you can produce."

With commercial frog-hunting banned in France since 1976, gourmets have often had to endure frozen frogs from Turkey, China and Egypt. The quality of Albania's frogs was legendary, but the country's isolation precluded their export. "They have the best taste," M Roche said. "All that was needed was some organisation."

May is the start of the frog season in Albania, and M Roche's

French business partner, Ludovic L'Aventure, has organised an *assemblée générale* of northern frog collectors in the port of Lezha. Among them will be Mark Cakaj, who has been the middle man in all frog negotiations in the village of Thumana for the past 23 years.

Mr Cakaj showed off his plastic hunting apron and lit his ferocious German petrol lamp, the glare of which stuns into submission the millions of frogs in the nearby swamp drainage channels.

"I don't know about these French people," he said warily. "You have to know what you're about in this game, and I'd prefer to deal with Albanians. But I've brought five children up through

frogs and I can't complain." Mr Cakaj takes frogs from up to 50 local people, whom he pays the equivalent of about 60p per kilogram. Only frogs weighing between 30 and 90 grams are selected, and on a good night up to 500kg are collected.

The fact that M Roche has started a frog business is unlikely to improve his relations with President Berisha: two years ago M Roche received a trial load of 30kg of frogs from Vlore, and was suitably impressed by the few he ate. The rest he liberated in his garden, only to find that they had hopped across the road and invaded the wedding reception of his important neighbour's daughter.



Mark Cakaj: wary about new partners in amphibian trade

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# Le Pen and greens pose poll threat to Left and Right

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE final week of campaigning in the French parliamentary elections has begun, with the pollsters forced into silence and parties buckling down to the complex mathematical conundrum that is the French electoral system.

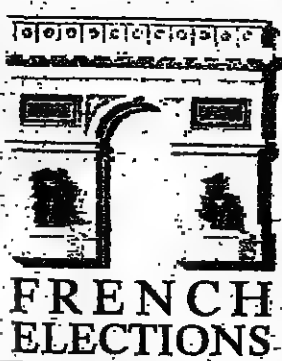
In the first round of the election next Sunday, voters will cast their initial ballots for the 6,242 candidates standing for 577 parliamentary seats.

A candidate who attracts more than 50 per cent of the vote in the first round is automatically elected. Contenders who gain at least 12.5 per cent of registered votes can then go through to the second round a week later on June 1. If only one or, conceivably, none of the candidates passes the 12.5 per cent threshold, then the two with the highest scores compete in the second-round run-off.

Few candidates are elected in the first round — the Centre-Right had just 80 out-right winners in the last election, before a massive landslide-victory in the final poll — but the system winnows out the field and provides a key indicator of how the competing parties are squaring up.

The pattern of the dispersed first-round vote is also an intriguing glimpse into the national political mood, since many voters use the opportunity to vote for fringe parties or register a protest vote, saving their "important" vote for those candidates remaining in the second round.

The serious jockeying and



regrouping will take place next week, between the first and second rounds, when the mosaic comes into sharper focus. In many cases this will translate into a straight battle between the two strongest contenders from the Right and Left, with unsuccessful candidates dropping out and putting their support behind the front-runner on their side of the political divide.

The Gaullist RPR party and the centre-right UDF have agreed to put up joint candidates on a coalition platform in all but a handful of constituencies; the Socialist and Communist parties, welded together in an uncomfortable electoral alliance, will field separate candidates in the first round and then combine forces in the second.

For the centre-right coalition, one of the most unpredictable elements in the equation is the challenge from the far-right National Front. The party, led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, has said its troops will fight on in the second round

wherever it qualifies, which could mean a Front candidate in the run-off for as many as 150 seats. Few, if any, far-right candidates will be elected to the National Assembly, but by staying in the race they are likely to bleed votes from the Centre-Right to the benefit of the Socialists.

But the Left also faces its own wild cards in the shape of the diverse green movement, which is predicted to draw 5 per cent of the vote with about 1,000 candidates. The Verts, the largest ecology party, has drawn up a pact with the Socialists, agreeing to support the party's candidates in 77 constituencies in return for left-wing backing in 29 other contests. The six other green parties fan out across the political spectrum and may prove an important, if unpredictable factor, in the final outcome.

As required under French electoral law, the last opinion poll was published on Sunday, predicting a renewed but slimmed-down majority for the Centre-Right.

Pilots strike: France's SNCF railways reported last night that traffic was slowly returning to normal after ticket inspectors in most cities voted to end a five-day strike that disrupted long-distance and inter-city trains.

Air transport is expected to be disrupted today when pilots at Air France plan to begin a four-day strike in protest at a planned cut in salary costs that would affect new pilot recruits. (AFP)



Festetics manor in Debrecen, southwest of Budapest, comes with a swimming pool, a heated football pitch and lots of Hungarian red tape

## Halfpenny des res, needs some attention (say £6m)

FROM EVA KERES IN DEBRECEN, HUNGARY

FOR only a fraction of a penny you can become lord of a neo-classical Hungarian manor, complete with a huge park, a lake, a swimming pool and even a heated football pitch.

But there is a catch: several in fact. Although the Government is willing to install you in Festetics manor for only one forint — less than half a penny — the cash-strapped Government will

expect you to restore the crumbling buildings entirely at your own expense.

"I'd say it'd take 1.5 to two billion forints [£4.5-6 million] to restore this to its one-time splendour," Kalman Salamin, of the Treasury Asset Management Agency, said of Festetics. What you get in return is a two-storey mansion with 47,300 sq ft of floorspace. Mr Salamin's agency is offering leases on Festetics, 85 miles southwest of Budapest, and three other big estates. This Thursday is the

deadline for prospective bidders to submit lease proposals, but that can be extended if acceptable offers have not been received. Mr Salamin conceded that his agency had not been "flooded with bids", but said that an American company, which he would not identify, had made some inquiries.

In addition to the cost, buyers face the equally daunting prospect of Hungarian bureaucracy. There is, for example, the lake at Festetics. It is under the authority of the Education

Ministry. Asked why, Mr Salamin just shrugged, then added: "Since it is also a fish pond, the local fishermen's association has controlling rights over the fish."

And for good measure, a small villa on the tiny island in the middle of the lake is used by the Agriculture Ministry as a museum. "To further complicate matters, four families who also have rights live on the [Festetics] property in various buildings," Mr Salamin conceded. (AP)

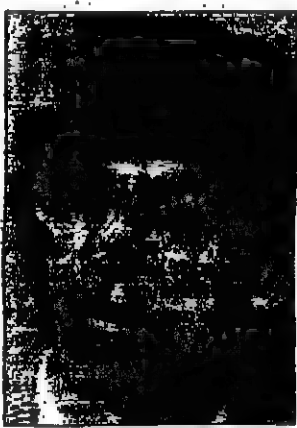
## Venice 'raiders' pay their way

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

SIXTY demonstrators wearing green shirts of the separatist Northern League, who briefly occupied the Campanile (bell tower) in St Mark's Square, Venice, paid their entrance fee and left peacefully. It emerged yesterday.

The "raid" on Sunday, ten days after an armed assault on the landmark by militants campaigning for the city's independence, had a similar, comic opera flavour. After a rally addressed by Umberto Bossi, the League leader, the protesters flew the green and white flag of "Padania", the mythical independent northern Italian state proclaimed by Signor Bossi last September.

The League leader hopes a "referendum" next Sunday will revive waning public support for secession. "The real point is that the League has



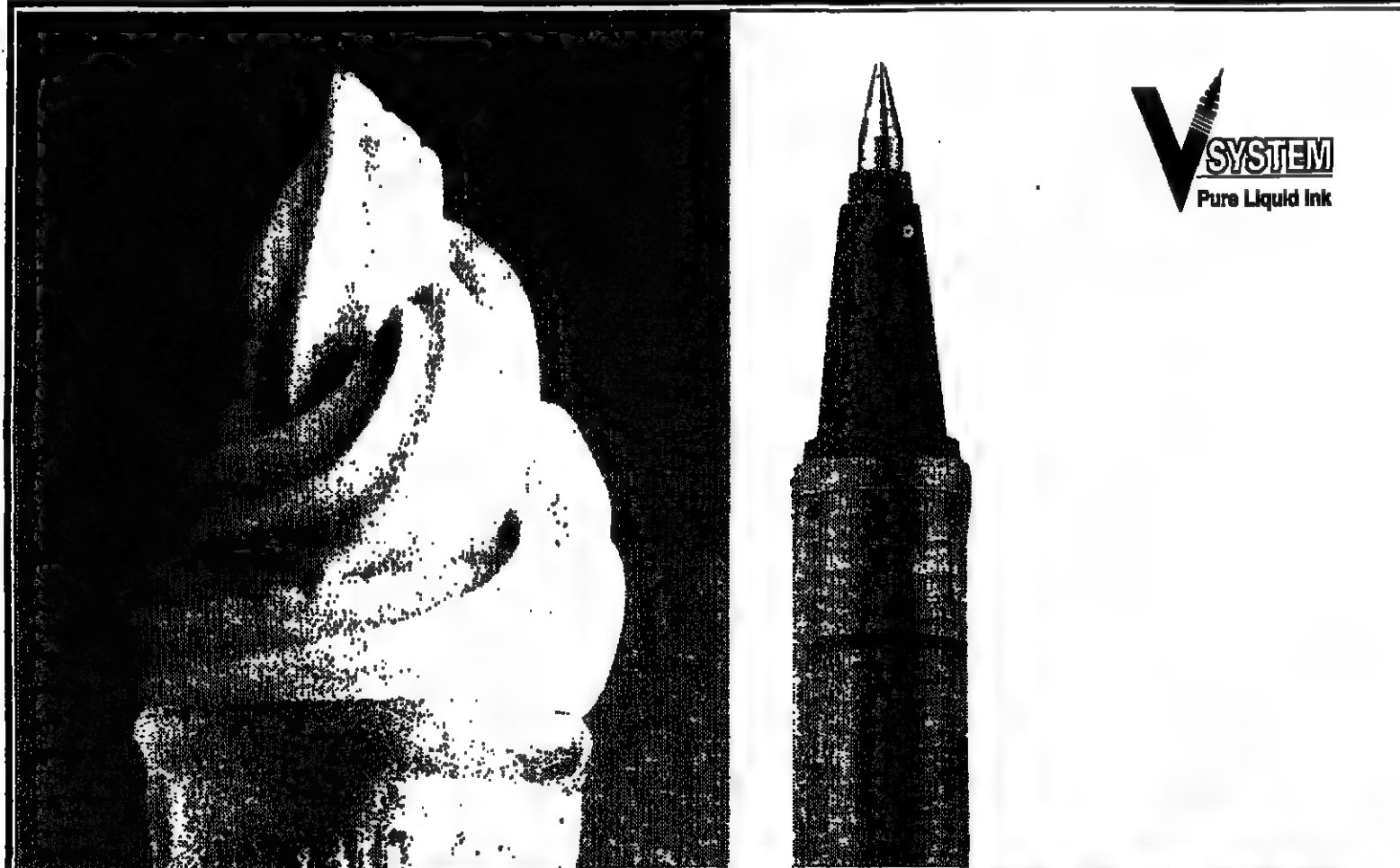
Bossi: Northern League has been losing support

been upstaged," *Corriere della Sera* observed. Signor Bossi has continued to exploit northern Italian resentment of high taxation from Rome, pointing out that Italy's difficulties in meeting the criteria for the European single currency are

compounded by its need to subsidise the poorer, more corrupt and less efficient South. But his creation of "Padania", with its own militia, shadow government and currency, has largely fallen flat, with the League losing votes in local elections.

Behind his inflammatory rhetoric, Signor Bossi has begun to reopen the dialogue with Rome on whether the League might, after all, settle for devolved powers within a more federal Italy. More extreme separatists are outflanking him, and have sparked an impassioned debate on whether devolution can avert further acts of "terrorism".

The eight original St Mark's Square activists go on trial tomorrow on charges ranging from terrorism to subversion over the episode ten days ago. A group of entrepreneurs has opened a fund to pay their legal costs.



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# Opting for a quick cut and run

Surgeon Peter McDonald carefully selected a colleague with a steady hand and a sense of humour to perform his vasectomy

Some countries give you a medal the day your fourth child arrives. For me, it meant an operation. Only a minor operation under local anaesthetic but, as a surgeon, I've been doing vasectomies for years and I can tell you that the complications can be anything but minor. A swollen, blue scrotum, so large that it can be seen on the other side of the works canteen, is no laughing matter.

Forget the risk of cancer, loss of libido or a rise in your

shortly run out of its own accord. After all, it's not much more of an operation for her — a quick laparoscopy and a couple of clips. I know she doesn't want any more children: and, more importantly, my manhood bits would not have to be interfered with. So how about it, darling?

For some reason, this suggestion was ignored. My friends didn't think much of it either. "Get it done and stop whingeing," they said, and "Why not operate on yourself?"

I pondered a bit more and consoled myself by remembering that both operations are potentially reversible, although the success rates are not high. Admittedly, having a laparoscopic sterilisation is an unkind cut than a couple of slits under local anaesthetic on either side of the goolies. But my wife seemed surprised when I suggested that she might be the intended victim. Almost as if I alone had caused the crisis, and so it was logical that it must be me who paid the ultimate price. After all, she was the one who had endured the pain of childbirth.

The surgeon I chose was a master of the *vas deferens*. As I lay on the table in my own hospital and felt the cold slap of iodine on my nether regions, I wondered if I would be as brave as all those souls I had operated on. The "just a little prick" routine seemed hilariously appropriate.

After a short pause, the scalpel went in and all was painless and good-humoured. We swapped a few more jokes and one of the staff nurses said how wonderful it was to be getting some sort of revenge after all those years of putting up with my tantrums.

Ten minutes later, I was on my way to the ward with my pants around my knees, leaning on the arm of a nurse. There was time for a cup of tea and a short drive home before the local anaesthetic wore off. I limped in and flopped on the sofa amazed at how painless it all was. My wife, who had just finished feeding the baby,



What a carry on: vasectomies may be minor in the league of operations, requiring only a local anaesthetic, but you have to be prepared to endure the *enunch* jokes afterwards



Peter with his daughter

top E — that's all rubbish — but an operation is an operation even if it's "minor".

It's seen as quaint to have four offspring, but there are dire economic consequences. For instance, it means buying one of those European people-carriers because Ford saloons can't cope. And there are other good reasons why it is essential to stop at four, the main one being that having five or more is thought rather vulgar and promiscuous — as if it was a sign of a relationship built on constant lust. Jokes about how often the TV must have broken down get tedious.

I concluded that I had to subject myself to the scalpel of a colleague — carefully selected for his steady hand and sense of humour. A quick cut and run. But wait a minute. Why me? Why not the missus? After all, I'm 42 and have the capacity to father ten million more babies. My wife's capacity, on the other hand, will

looked up. She said, with a grin, that she could not yet detect a higher pitch to my voice (the first of many *enunch* jokes I had to endure the following week).

By the second day, I was boasting how simple it had been. I was such a macho chap, taking it all in my stride. But I wish I'd kept quiet because the next day disaster struck. The sciatica attacked as I lifted the baby out of the bath — I was frozen in mid-air. I lay flat on the floor for five days.

Now, with my body completely repaired, I look back on my experience with some amusement. The discomfort

has long gone and I'm hopeful that the rewards will make it all worthwhile.

Occasionally, I muse on the fact that I will never be able to father any more monsters. But no old-fashioned agonising about fertility and warrior status came to mind. I have long since been liberated from that. After all, I eat quiche and wear pink ties.

No more babies? I suppose I know a reversal is possible, but anyway I believe that I'm lucky to already have four healthy offshoots, so it's probably best to quit while I'm ahead.

Reproduced from the March issue of SHE magazine

## Have a great body without raising a sweat

Victoria Walker on Pilates, the exercise routine of the chic

For more than 60 years, Pilates has been the best kept secret of the fit, the chic and the beautiful. Neatly sidestepping the fashionable fads introduced every few months by image-crazed America, it has been quietly practised by dancers and an enlightened elite for decades. As vital and beautiful today, at the age of 70, as she was when filming *Goldfinger* or *The Avengers*, Honor Blackman swears by it. Pat Cash has adopted it into his personal fitness regime, to complement the more vigorous and aerobic aspects of his athletic lifestyle, and Stefanie Powers says it is "the single most effective exercise technique I have ever known".

Designed to work the deep, architectural muscles, Pilates tones and strengthens the body. The effects on posture, physical health and the shape of a figure can be dramatic. While many conventional exercise programmes emphasise shortening and bulking of the muscles, Pilates aims to lengthen muscles and emphasises good posture and balance.

Although specially designed machines are often used to provide resistance, there is a marked contrast between a Pilates studio and a fitness gym. Pilates sessions are relaxing — soft classical music fills the air and the exercises are performed slowly and gently, so that there is rarely a sweaty torso or a messed up hair-do to be seen. "I hate the macho philosophy of pushing your body to the limit," Miss Blackman

The exercises became extremely popular with dancers, but tended to remain exclusive to Pilates's own studio for the tailored programmes to suit individuals.

Alan Herdman, Miss Blackman's Pilates instructor, brought the technique to Britain in the 1970s. Mr Herdman's training in New York involved working intensively with Joseph Pilates's original assistants. He is now chairman of the UK Pilates Foundation and is often invited to teach in America, Japan and Australia.

Many doctors and osteopaths recommend it as an effective treatment for people suffering from chronic back problems. Mr Herdman works closely with physiotherapists and osteopaths. His clients even include people in their eighties and nineties.

Gordon Thomson (whose style of Pilates differs in some areas to that of Mr Herdman), trained with Ballet Rambert and the London Contemporary Dance Theatre. He opened his first studio in 1981 and is now director of the Body Control Studios in Kensington and of the Association of Pilates Teachers. A co-director of Teacher Training for the Association of Pilates Instructors, Lynne Robinson took up Pilates in Australia on the advice of her osteopath. "I suffered from terrible lower back pain," she says, "but Pilates helped me to overcome it and I haven't looked back."

Mrs Robinson is determined that Pilates should break away from its exclusive roots. She runs classes in Sevenoaks, Kent, and in London. Together with Mr Thomson, she has written a comprehensive manual, featuring more than 40 illustrated exercises. They hope that the book, *Body Control: The Pilates Way*, will help to bring the technique to a wider audience. Although it is perhaps best to experience the one-to-one intensive training of a qualified instructor, these books will bring the benefits of Pilates into the homes of everyone.

Body Control: The Pilates Way, by Gordon Thomson and Lynne Robinson, is published by Bantam, £9.99

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Yesterday we published a full list of hotels and every day this week will repeat a section of them. Included in today's list, which covers the south of England, are a former coaching inn at Alverstoke, and hotels at Farnborough, within easy reach of Birdworld and the Aldershot Military Museum or at Havant where you can enjoy golf, sailing or simply lazing on a beach.

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Swindon	£58	£29
Taunton	£138	£69



Honor Blackman: keen fan

says. "Exercising should not be about burn, burn, burn."

Miss Blackman's introduction to Pilates more than 15 years ago was also the result of back problems: "I remember complaining to one of my fellow cast members when we were rehearsing for a stage production of the *Sound of Music*. I had awful problems with my back. I suppose it was a legacy of being thrown around on a hard floor when filming *The Avengers*."

This year she published a book on health and beauty tips, *How To Look & Feel Half Your Age For The Rest Of Your Life* (published by Virgin). In it she devotes a chapter to Pilates including detailed descriptions and photographs of ten exercises that can be done at home.

Pilates is named after German-born Joseph Pilates, who developed it to improve his own body. Settling in New York in the 1920s, he set up a studio with his wife, Clara.

## COUTURE BEAUTÉ

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# 'I am never going to be made a dame doing Dot'

After a four-year gap, actress June Brown is back playing the moaning Dot Cotton in *EastEnders*. But she has no idea why she was asked to return. Interview by Noreen Taylor

The *EastEnders* publicity aide was apologetic. June Brown had finished filming for the day and returned to her natural persona. "Sorry, you couldn't possibly photograph June as Dot Cotton now. It would take much too long. Clothes, make-up, hair, all of that."

As if on cue, June appears at the doorway of the BBC canteen. She is dressed in a yellow silk shirt, olive silk culottes, and her hair is blow-dried into a chic French bob. Her stance is straight-backed and assertive. Even before I hear the drama school vowels, her appearance is living proof of June's talents as an actress.

So skilfully does she play the soap's bawdy old malcontent, hypochondriacal, full of prejudices, continually whingeing over her lot, boring everyone with her biblical tracts, it's difficult to believe that this is the same woman.

Difficult also to believe that, after a four-year gap, the BBC has brought Dot—and June—back to the screen. Dot supposedly spent the years of exile with her son in Gravesend, Kent.

"No, I cannot think why they have done it. Couple of new storylines, I guess. They have asked me back a couple of times, but I've been busy producing and acting in a play, *Double D*, written by a wonderful young writer, Matthew Westwood. Have you got that? Yes, just like the bra size."

"Though I do get fed up living downstairs, you know," confides June, striding into the canteen. "When am I going to return to proper theatre? That's what I want to know. I am never going to be made a dame doing Dot. I'm only doing her until May, though, then I've got my Granada series, *Clozyon Close*, with my lovely Eileen Alcock, the pub landlady."

She interrupts herself to warn me: "I talk a lot, dear. A lot of rubbish mostly. An interviewer's dream I am. What's this? Tea in plastic cups." She chastises the publicity woman. "Why didn't you bring out the bone china? Looks much better in the photographs. Oh well, they've only themselves to blame..."

That's how she is. On and on like an express train blithely ignoring the stops, whistling past, without a pause for directions, questions, responses. "Cigarette, dear? So difficult being a smoker these days. I never go anywhere I can't smoke. Once walked out of a Thai restaurant in San Francisco. Can't remember how many! About 40 a day, maybe an hour, how should I know?"

"Ruins the voice of course, smoking. Supposed to turn the face yellow, too. Had to have my teeth capped, it's

the gums, you see, cigarettes dry them up, gives you horse's teeth. Could afford a facelift now, but what's the point at my age? Lying in a coffin, all that expense for nothing."

"When I do theatre I simply tape this back. Same effect. See!" Turning round in her chair, she demonstrates her own version of the non-surgical facelift.

"All you have to do," she says, lifting folds of skin from the side of her neck and pulling them backwards. "Cleans up the contours, lifts the chin."

Firmly, and I mean firmly, I practically shout at her: "June, you left *EastEnders* four years ago, because you disagreed with the way Dot was being rewritten. So what's changed?"

"I shelved Dot simply because I grew weary of struggling to keep her true to her character, which was a nasty old lady, full of bigotry, the sort who thought you got Aids from a tea cup."

"Different writers would come along, want to make their mark by trying to clean her up, make her politically correct. In the end, I used to find myself slipping in phrases like 'Ooh, I've come over all dizzy.' You see, I didn't think she should change. People of that age don't alter the patterns of a lifetime. And I wanted my character to be true to life, like Alf Garnett. No one could say he was politically correct."

"Viewers aren't daft, are they? They realise the Dots and the Alfs are with us. Just because they're not thinking as we'd like them to, doesn't mean they don't exist. Quite sharp she is, too. Dot. Like a magpie, always reading her magazines, picking things up, full of information."

"Wanting Dot to be a nice old lady, does not work. Hopefully, they have realised that now. Growing old does not automatically make you mellow. I mean, I think I was a much nicer person when I was young."

Stop! Stop! Just for a minute. "Yes, well I did warn you."

I merely wanted to point out that there is a great deal more to you than playing Dot, isn't there?

"Oh, yes. I did me Lady M with [Albert] Finney. He was only 21, and I must admit I looked rather lovely."

Exactly. What I was going on to say was that you spent years with the Royal Shakespeare Company in productions of *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, and that other actors remember you as a great Hedda, a beauty whom Nigel Hawthorne once described as "one of the most beautiful creatures I've seen on

stage". I took the opportunity to give details of relevant incidents from her past. Maternal grandparents from the East End. Raised in Suffolk by parents who veered between riches and bankruptcy. Good schools. Joined the Wrens. During a wartime tour of Southern Command, became involved with the stage. On leaving the Forces, studied drama at the Old Vic. Married twice. First husband was the actor John Garley, who gassed himself in their house, while suffering from depression. Had six children with present husband, the Shakespearean actor Robert Arnold. One baby died shortly after birth, another daughter was born suffering from a paralysis, but later cured through prayer.

An edited version. *This Is Your Life*-style, was the only way to silence her for a moment.

"They wanted me to do that show, actually. My children said no, she'd hate it. I've been on so many by now, people must think it's my other day job."

Her face curls in distaste: "Can't imagine anything more awful than having to face all those people you've been running from most of your life, kissing, shaking hands. Oh Lord!"

"Yes, my face looked quite different when I was younger. The eyes were bigger, lips fuller and of course, I was much more glamorous. And no matter what any one tells you, life is different once you lose your looks. You become diminished as a woman. No matter what you do. Like Vivien Leigh, she knew all about that."

Having children put an end to my glamour. Had my hair in a ponytail till I was 30. Never stopped working, though. All my children had been on stage before they were born. All fed in theatre dressing-rooms, too. Couldn't afford to do otherwise. *EastEnders* brought in money for the first time, which was lovely. I'll come back as Dot from time to time, of course. Never get bored playing her because I know her so well. Anyway, you like having enough to do things for the children, don't you?

"I'm talking a lot again. My downfall. Some journalists tend to take me too seriously. They write about me as though my whole life was one long tragedy, immersed in grief, darkness and spiritualism. Rubbish really. They didn't understand me properly."

I am not sure I agree. It seems to me, I say, that you've faced an inordinate amount of anguish. More than anyone's allotted quota, if there is such a thing, and yet here you are, full of life, gaudier than those who haven't been through a quarter of what you have.

"The only explanation I can offer is that I'm flexible, like a willow tree. I bend, go with the storms. That way you don't snap."



"My face looked quite different when I was younger. I was much more glamorous. Having children put an end to my glamour"

were. Anyway, having been happily married for seven years, always being part of a pair, I got married to Bob 11 months later. Yes, it was a compliment to John, that's how I look at it, too."

Should Dot fall victim to another team of writers and, in the process, grow too bland, too politically correct for her tastes, what then?

"Oh I shall fade in and out as I wish. Or I could leave and never be seen again. You see, I have to be precise and truthful to my character. Drama teaches you certain truths and once ingrained you don't easily throw them off."

Her one remaining ambition is to work with Mike Leigh. "Put that in, dear."

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# Time's up for schools that fail

David Blunkett has a warning for incompetent heads and staff

The Government was elected on a manifesto with education at its heart. The Prime Minister has repeatedly made it clear that our priorities are "education, education and education". Having been given this important brief, his priorities are standards, standards and standards. The aim is to infuse everyone connected with education — teachers, parents, governors and business people — with ambition and purpose. We want schools that match the best in the world. This is the background to my announcement today about failing schools.

We shall always draw attention to the many successes of good schools. We shall search for best practices, celebrate them and seek to spread them across the country. But we absolutely will not tolerate underperformance. This may sound harsh, but if we are genuinely committed to success for every child — and each gets only one chance — then nothing less will do.

Our inheritance from the Conservatives includes almost 300 schools which have been inspected and found to be failing. Of these, the vast majority are improving, some steadily and some at an impressive pace. Those involved at every level deserve congratulations for this achievement. A hard core have been closed, enabling their pupils to transfer to more successful neighbouring schools.

But there are about 15 where progress is limited 18 months or even two years after an inspection, and where the evidence suggests that more might have been done by the school and the local authority to ensure that the pupils receive the education they deserve. The last Government was prepared to let things drift in this way. We are not.

From today, the Government will be calling in the local authorities and schools concerned to meet the Minister of School Standards, Stephen Byers. In the case of any grant-maintained schools on the list, the Funding Agency for Schools will be involved too. We have targeted the local education authorities and schools without political favour. Our concern is for the pupils, regardless of which party controls the local authority in which they live.

We recognise that by doing so we risk provoking controversy, but we have no intention of getting bogged down in sectional conflict with local government or anyone else. Yesterday *The Times* published its list of 38 long-term failing schools. Today we defend those which are making the necessary effort, but we shall be intervening in the other cases.

At the meeting, Stephen Byers will want to hear from the local authorities and schools concerned what they have been doing to put things right and what they plan to do next. No one pretends that it is easy to turn around a long-standing failure, but it is right to expect that everything that can be done is at least tried.

There is now extensive knowledge of what works in such cases. Many successful turnarounds have involved a change of head. Where a new head with high expectations and determined and astute management skills is appointed, progress usually follows. Finding a suitable candidate for some of the failing schools has proved difficult. This is what prompted Tony Blair's suggestion in a speech last December that it might sometimes make sense to allow the head of an already successful school to take over a failing one. This is what happened at the Ridings, where real advances have now been made.

Success has often involved dealing firmly with a small number of incompetent teachers. The Government is committed to streamlining the procedures for doing so. In the meantime, what matters is that heads and governors have the will, and that education authorities provide the back-up to ensure speedy progress.

Above all, progress has been associated with the development in each case of a clear action plan, which sets targets and is then monitored. This plan must focus on bringing change in the classroom and must deal with more than just window-dressing. The clearer the plan is in the first place, the more likely it is that success will follow.

The Government will want to hear from those involved in reviving schools how far they have come. The Government's solid project of restoring confidence and humanity to a divided nation. Education, unemployment, the environment, housing, welfare, Europe, prisons all clamour for the clear-eyed idealism and disciplined rigour that Mr Blair's Government has shown so far. Since the morning of that landslide, the nation has been like parched ground gratefully soaking up an unexpected new sense of common purpose.

Why should that Government, everybody's Government, be bounced by single-issue lobbyists into putting its gravitas behind the banning of foxhunting? Why should Mr Blair neglect urgent tasks to facilitate the tacky symbolic gesture of criminalising a pastime that amuses hundreds and employs thousands? It can only do political harm. The positive, classless image of his party is an asset that will be useful in uniting us behind tougher reforms. To impose this law would align new Labour irrevocably with one sector of society: the politically correct, prissy sentimental urbanite.

For this is not a blow against some semi-imaginary "upper class" with red faces, red coats and stirrup-cups: it strikes wider than that. A hunting ban backed by the Government would send a message to the countryside that its people were not included in the unity and happiness of May 2. By countryside I do not mean the new rich, nimble idyll, nor the quasi-suburban dormitory villages decked with security lights and barbecues. I mean the older, poorer, remoter, cottagers' countryside, which earns its name, says little but follows old ways out of tradition and fascination. It asks for no subsidy, no lottery money, no approval, only that its kennels and stables and muddy cold winter preoccupations should be left alone. If this minority were a tribe of the same

The author is Secretary of State for Education and Employment.



## Wrong scent, Mr Blair

If Labour really does stand for one nation, it should not exclude country people by banning hunting

There is a black rumour circulating. It fills me with dismay, the first prickings of unease to pierce the golden haze of new Labour euphoria. It says that instead of allowing a Private Member's Bill and a free vote, the Government is preparing to put its official weight behind a ban on hunting with hounds.

It does not have to do this. The Labour manifesto promised only a free vote on foxhunting, not adoption of the Bill. It was not in the Queen's Speech. This inessential frilly petmet of a measure does not lie anywhere near the heart of new Labour's vast solid project of restoring confidence and humanity to a divided nation. Education, unemployment, the environment, housing, welfare, Europe, prisons all clamour for the clear-eyed idealism and disciplined rigour that Mr Blair's Government has shown so far. Since the morning of that landslide, the nation has been like parched ground gratefully soaking up an unexpected new sense of common purpose.

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size and antiquity living in Iran, Java and using blow-pipes, the politically correct urban voices would be vehement in its defence. Because it is here, under our noses, it is despised.

So let me don the Martin Bell outfit, the white suit of sleazebag and disinterested public spirit. I don't hunt and never have. I know what it is to be infuriated by the rudeness of a hunt in a narrow lane, and to giggle at the kind of blimps who — before the sweet reasonableness of Robin Hanbury Tenison and Baroness Mallalieu — used to wreck their case in public debate with arrogant dim brayings. Once when chairing a television debate, I goaded a hunting type to reply to the populist indignation, and all he could say was: "It isn't us who kill the foxes, it's the hounds." Nor do I belong to hunting society: in the days before the election I made myself very unpopular by arguing with horse neighbours that it would be wicked for them to ignore the wider good of the country and use their vote just to safeguard their hobby. The very word "hobby" marked me as a ghastly outsider who would never understand.

Moreover, I firmly believe that most hunting of live quarry will end anyway during the next decade or so. The social structures that support it are decaying, tastes are changing, drag-hunts and bloodhounds are gaining the interest of a new generation of horsemen. In a nation where the urban majority rules, a successful Private Member's Bill is always just around the corner. This discourages heavy investment in the hunt's animals and people. Some 15,000 dogs will die if the sport goes; nobody wants that number to rise, and packs shrink accordingly. Nobody goes into any of the hunt or gamekeeping trades these days in hope of a long career. So that is where I stand: I neither hunt nor think the hunt has many

years left. But I can accept the arguments of those who do. The environmental case is strong. Hedges, ditches, meadows, woodland, and wide grassy headlands on agricultural land are all excellent for wildlife and plant diversity, and all desired and therefore maintained — against the agricultural trend — by field sportsmen. As long as you have private landowners at all, it is better for the look and the health of the land that they should have such motives. The argument for rural trades is compelling too: there will always be recreational riders, but without the magnetic fascination of the hunt many farriers, saddlers and livery stables would close, as surely as the kennels.

If you happen to care about equestrian sports, there are other arguments. The hunt, pouring over fences and ditches, is a uniquely tough, unpredictable, exciting, companionable milieu for a horse. The market for hunters has meant that the British horse has never suffered as much as it might from overbreeding for rarefied uses. Our horses are famous for stamina, versatility, sociableness and even temperament, whether they end up on the hunting field or winning medals in competition. (Irish horses, of course, are even more noted for these good qualities, because in Ireland the hunt is even deeper in the culture.)

Against all these varied benefits to humans, hounds and horses there must be set the interests of the fox. Hunts argue, correctly, that foxes would be culled anyway; although admittedly the hunt does kill in a spectacularly nasty way. Almost as nasty as the way pet cats kill birds and mice, pet dogs worry sheep and foxes tear up chickens. But at least the individual fox has a free, wild, natural life right up to the last hour of flight

and death, and the huntsmen face up honestly to the part they play in the rough raw ways of nature. Although I have no wish to watch it, I have always secretly approved of the custom so many opponents cite as barbaric: the "blooding" of a child at its first kill. At least by smearing the blood on your face you openly accept your responsibility for animal death.

The rest of us don't: what happens to the hunted fox is infinitely less cruel than what happens every day in the darkness of battery farms, bullock-sheds and turkey factories. A vixen's life and death are a thousand times preferable to the life and death of a crated sow, a mare tormented and confined so that her urine may be harvested for HRT hormones, or even a cow weighed down by painful, artificially stimulated udders. The fox, frankly, has it easy. I honour those who campaign coherently for the easing of all cruelty to all animals; it is difficult to respect those who shy away from hard targets but are driven by a blend of sentimentality, squeamishness and class hostility to focus their attack on the hunting minority.

I should not like to think of the intelligent energy and genuine goodwill of this new Government being hijacked by such people. This is not what Mr Blair meant by "practical measures in support of noble causes". The measure's hollow heart has been exposed by one unwary remark. The Minister for the Countryside, Elliott Morley, said: "There are more foxes killed on the road than by fox hunts, and so the only justification for hunting is entertainment. That cannot be allowed in a modern society." In other words, it isn't the death that matters but the pleasure his "modern society" means allowing only the sanitised pleasures of leisure-centre tennis, step-aerobics videos and motorcycling around the countryside squashing animals. Older, harder, subtler traditions and philosophies must be denied any expression.

Abolitionists, send no more pictures of dead fox cubs. The tide of history is with you, and you will almost certainly win in the end. All I ask is that your senseless triumph should not be identified with a Government that could do real, lasting good. And will do, if only it has the sense not to stoop to pick up every metrically shiny bauble in the gutter.

## Libby Purves

## Motherly love

THE reception of David Hockney's latest exhibition has been vicious and sometimes vindictive, but one woman is having none of it: his mother, Laura. Mrs Hockney, 96, divides her time between the family home in Bridlington, East Yorkshire, and a nearby nursing home. Her family now have to keep back newspaper articles criticising her son, because she finds them too distasteful.

"We have to keep a close eye on what she reads," says the artist's elder sister, Margaret, who lives in

Bridlington. "We don't want her seeing anything critical, or anything about David and smoking or sex, that worldly-wise stuff. She gets annoyed if she doesn't think it's true and it's awful. David can do no wrong in her eyes."

Hockney's relationship with his mother is very close. She has been a devoted follower of his career, and he returns home from California at least four times a year. He has spent every Christmas at home since 1961. The top floor of the house in Bridlington has even been

turned into a studio for the family prodigy.

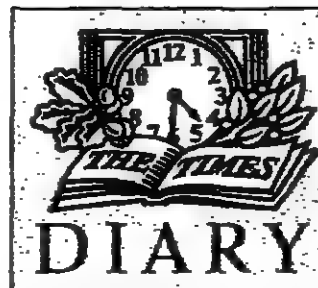
Protecting Laura Hockney from the bad press sounds like full-time work. "We are keeping her on the safe local rags," says her daughter, "and if she does find a national, we have to cut out any nasty pieces beforehand."

### Bad time

TAMARA BECKWITH, the most fit-less of the "It girls", is still perspiring on her chaise longue having been set upon in the King's Road by a hoard of celebrating Chelsea fans. She had just stepped out of her front door at the weekend when she was sprayed with beer by a gang of inebriated assailants. They began jumping up and down and asking her to recreate a set of topless photographs of her in Cannes which had found their way into a tabloid last week.

Her male companion was pinned up against a wall and eventually rescued by an American friend, giving Beckwith the chance to flee on her high heels. Last night a friend said she was "ill" in bed and unavailable for comment.

● Bobbing in the sea of crumpled linen suits at Sunday's launch of the second River Cafe Cook Book in Hammersmith was Peter



Mandelson, MP, triumphant in jeans and a painfully tight white shirt. When one of his Labour luvvies approached him with congratulations, he leaned down, chin first and whispered: "You know, I am sooooo powerful."

### Our party

ALL the bitterness of the election is forgotten in Putney, where romance is on the cards between Aneka Poole, the Independently Beautiful Candidate, and Patrick Robertson, heel-clicker-in-chief to the Referendum Party candidate, Sir James Goldsmith. Robertson, along with various other red-blooded young referendums, invited Miss Poole, 24, to the Farewell to the Referendum Party last Friday. Though she was prepared to pose semi-clad for her campaign

literature, a ruse which won her 49 votes, Miss Poole is more modest about the attentions she is now receiving. "They asked me to their party and to several other things," she says. Despite sharing their views on a Referendum for Europe, she seems too sensible a girl to get involved with such a caddish lot. "I haven't accepted any of their invitations. Yet."

● Classicists should take note of an under-used facility at the Hempel, Anouska Hempel's preposterously minimalist hotel in West London: the library. "We don't find that many of the guests actually read the books," says a hotel-



ier, "because they are not in normal, everyday English." In fact they are mainly Latin and Greek classics collected, according to the bookplates, from the Augustine Fathers of Byblyden and the Archbishop Corrigan. Not the usual reading of the fashion set.

### Anonymous

SHOPPING for bulbs at the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday, John Major, who in defeat is becoming ever more like the Peter Sellers character Chancey Gardener, showed that he has a better eye for a bargain than his wife. When the couple found some yellow Moonshine tulip bulbs, Norma thought ten would be enough. Her husband, however, spotted that there was a discount for 50, and ticked the box for the larger order.

When he filled in his form, however, he left the address section empty. "Everyone knows where we live," he reasoned to his wife. "Our address is in all the reference books." Happily, she was able to persuade him that now he is no longer PM, he should stop being so grand and should fill in the form in full, so that the order does not get lost en route to Carnibridgeshire.



David and his mother: no worldly stuff

## These are not hard times

Anatole Kaletsky tells Brown not to be a Gradgrind

"Times are hard", said Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, yesterday as the Treasury announced a dramatic improvement in government finances and three days after unemployment fell below 6 per cent. If this is Mr Dobson's idea of hard times, one wonders what he will feel like if interest rates, taxes and starting all start rising, and even the trend in unemployment begins to turn up.

Gordon Brown should think about it too. The Tories warned during the election campaign that Mr Brown would use Labour's first Budget for 18 years to create a profusion of new taxes, going far beyond the windfall levy on utilities announced in its manifesto. The warnings were dismissed by Tony Blair as scaremongering, but they have been made more credible by the bizarre behaviour of the Confederation of British Industry and other business lobbies, which responded to the Labour victory by demanding an increase in tax. Britain's businessmen are begging to be ravished; Mr Brown must be sorely tempted to give them what they want.

In this temptation, the usual roles of the devil and the angel are reversed. "Take advantage of the business community's unexpected passion for higher taxes," whispers the puritan devil on Mr Brown's right shoulder. "This will allow you to fill the Treasury's coffers while you have the chance, in readiness for a public spending binge before the next election." The Keynesian angel on his left shoulder replies: "Tony Blair has talked of a new trust on tax with the British people. Stick to the spirit of this promise, not just to the letter of your legalistic pledges about the rates of income tax."

Which course will the Chancellor choose? Yesterday's extremely downbeat comment from the Treasury in response to the glittering figures on public borrowing suggested that greed may be gaining the upper hand over fear. Is this a signal that the Chancellor has "looked at the books" and is now preparing to blame a large tax increase on "the mess the Tories left behind"?

If that is what he plans, Mr Brown is making a big mistake. First, it is simply untrue that the Tories have left a mess in the public finances. The long-term course of the national debt is firmly under control. The long-term fiscal outlook in Britain is far better than in Germany, France, Japan or America. Even the much discussed "demographic timebomb" holds no fears for the British taxpayer, as the OECD found two years ago, in a study which showed that on present trends Britain would repay its entire national debt by 2025, while Germany and France would see theirs double. A tax increase based on the false premise that public finances are out of control would therefore undermine the new Government's reputation for political plain-dealing, and in the present circumstances it could do great economic harm.

Britain's biggest economic problem today is the overvaluation of sterling. Inflows of foreign money, attracted by the world's highest interest rates combined with the strongest public finances, have pushed the pound back to the crippling level of 1990-92. A tax increase now would make British bonds even more attractive, pushing sterling still higher and tightening the noose on the very industrialists who have been foolishly calling for higher tax. In the days before the Bank of England was independent, the Government could have prevented such a vicious circle simply by cutting interest rates. It is this theory that a tighter budget would produce lower interest rates and a lower pound that explains the businessmen's appeals for more taxes. But in the brave new world of central bank independence, the old relationship between taxes, interest rates and sterling is likely to be reversed. The Bank will not cut interest rates automatically in response to higher taxes. In fact, it could easily raise them further after a tough Budget, since a soaring pound initially tends to stimulate consumer demand.

So the result of a tough Budget could be a triple whammy of higher taxes, higher interest rates and a higher pound. This combination might not prevent continued strong consumption before Christmas, but it would certainly create a bust by 1998 — and vindicate John Major's warning that Labour would "blow" the healthy economy the Tories had bequeathed.

Cynics on the Labour benches may be prepared to risk such a mini-recession. In 1998, after all, who wants a strong economy in the first half of a Parliament? Far better politically to have a slowdown next year, followed by a boom in the year or two before the voters have to be faced again. But Labour leaders should beware of such cynical manipulation: it did not save the Tories and it will not save a Labour Government that loses the appearance of economic competence and trustworthiness. The day the Labour Government is forced to announce an increase in unemployment caused by its own unforced blunders could be Tony Blair's Black Wednesday.





## LEADERSHIP VACUUM

Feuds fester when a party lacks direction

Given the Tories' current unhappy position, it is easy to understand why the party wishes to put off hard decisions. The leadership election has not, so far, provided the Conservatives with new hope. The character of the candidates matters but so does a sense of proportion, and the attention paid to the reasons for Derek Lewis's dismissal has obscured an honest examination of the reasons why the Tories were sent packing.

The sight of a party at war with itself, its leading figures indulging in recrimination, is profoundly off-putting for the electorate. Ann Widdecombe may want the best for the Conservative Party but the scrap between her and Michael Howard is doing it no good. The arguments between them damaged Mr Howard's capacity to attack the Queen's Speech and obscure his lucid prospectus for a more flexible EU, outlined in today's Centre for Policy Studies pamphlet, *The Future of Europe*. It is a pity for both the Conservative Party and the country that Mr Howard's future, not Europe's, should be the issue of the hour.

Damaging as this feud is, its prominence is a symptom of a deeper malaise — the Tories' lack of leadership. The vacancy was formally announced on May 2 but the vacuum was apparent well before then. It is the absence of leadership which allows lieutenants the space to squabble. Yet some, including William Rees-Mogg yesterday and correspondents on this page today, still argue for delay in filling the vacancy. They believe that postponement would give time for a fuller inquest, a better choice, and a wider franchise.

They should realise that hands-off treatment for haemorrhages proves fatal. It is hard to see how order can be restored by a caretaker leader whose authority is undermined by his built-in obsolescence. No interim figure, however respected, could

prevent manoeuvring for the succession. Intrigue would occupy energies better directed against Labour. The Conservative Party cannot afford another long period of debilitating uncertainty. The Tories' caretaker would become their undertaker.

Better, by far, to choose one of the six imperfect but all, in their way, impressive candidates currently on offer. The act of electing a leader would give the party a renewed sense of purpose and direction. Policy could be formulated in confidence. Most importantly, the massive constitutional changes Labour is proposing could receive the scrutiny they need. Moreover, delay in the hope that the Tories' King over the Water might return is as unrealistic in current political circumstances as Jacobitism itself. Given the scale of Tory unpopularity, there is no guarantee that Michael Portillo or Chris Patten could make it back to the Commons for years yet, even if they wanted to. An engineered election is likely to backfire. The voters have shown what they think when the Tories try to take them for granted. It would be folly to put the Tory party through purgatory when the hope of subsequent salvation is so slim.

To delay the election specifically in order to broaden the franchise is to betray the activists whose interests are invoked. The Tories have already argued that the new 1922 Committee should organise the election for the next leader on as broad a basis as possible consistent with the minimum delay. Those who argue that the election must wait until every member can be consulted are, again, making the best of a bad job. Ultimately, the Tory party should move to one member, one vote, but the need for leadership should take precedence over any preferred method of election. Defending the British constitution is more important than perfecting the Tory party's

## A WHIMPER NOT A BANG

One rather small cheer, at most, for the US budget bargain

Two years ago the bitter struggle over the shape of the American budget absorbed Washington. The newly elected Republican majority in Congress outlined their intention to eliminate the federal deficit entirely by the year 2002. Newt Gingrich and his troops proposed reductions in public spending exceeding \$1 trillion and tax cuts totalling \$245 billion to reach that goal. This supremely ambitious package actually passed Congress despite the obvious political risks involved. It was felled by the veto of President Clinton. That battle shaped American politics throughout 1995 and 1996. Mr Clinton won the war of public relations then and was re-elected in its wake.

The President and Congress have now announced agreement on a plan to reduce public borrowing by \$380 billion over five years and achieve a budget surplus by 2002. One might have thought that rejoicing would break out in the American capital. Both Democrats and Republicans in the White House and on Capitol Hill have proclaimed the "historic nature" of their compromise. Commentators and citizens alike have, though, greeted this "landmark" development with supreme indifference.

The virtues of a balanced budget have long held an important place in American political folklore. If not economics textbooks. This year the Senate fell but one vote shy of the two-thirds majority necessary to write the principle into the American constitution. Every American state except Vermont places some sort of similar restriction on its government. The short-lived Confederate States of America, formed by the seceding southern states during the Civil War, also endorsed the concept. The notion is at least as American as apple pie and baseball.

All this might make the absence of enthusiasm for the latest budget accord even more surprising. However, the muted response is more than justified by the facts. The arrangement offers some prospect of marginal additional restraint in Washington spending. That is worth having. With good fortune and a healthy economy it might meet its stated objective in the narrow timetable set. It does not address — indeed goes to great lengths to avoid — the fundamental factors that will determine the state of US public finances in the next century.

Mr Clinton and his Republican adversaries managed to accommodate each other because the Congressional Budget Office announced that it had underestimated future revenues by a vast \$225 billion margin. At a stroke all the difficult and divisive choices that had deadlocked negotiations dematerialised. The politicians discovered they could lower taxes, preserve popular programmes, and still arrive at the promised land of fiscal equilibrium within a five-year framework. The deal delivered is a pale shadow of the blueprint that Congress bravely backed in 1995. Nonetheless, it has been presented as a dramatic triumph.

This was the best that could be expected between a Democratic President and Republican legislature. But it will do little for the American economy in the short term and less for American politics in the medium term. The real issues that affect the US budget — notably the expensive entitlement programmes of Medicare and Social Security — have been left unresolved. They will have to be addressed after the next presidential contest. By then Bill Clinton will be enjoying his retirement. His successor will have few reasons to thank him for this agreement.

## WAITING FOR THE BUSES

They also serve a writ who only stand and wait

Professor Robert Stanton is a folk hero for the age. He is suing a bus company for the frustration of waiting for a bus, and for the subsequent cost of hiring a taxi for the bus that never came. The taxi fare came to only £2.80, though the lawyers' meters will tick up faster than that. But Professor Stanton is resorting to the courts for breach of contract. The West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority had publicly undertaken through its timetables to provide a bus to convey him from Howarth to Keighley. Even after an unconscionable delay, no bus came. So the professor is enacting the Walter Mitty dream of all who stand hopelessly in queues.

Everything comes to him who waits; except the bus. And when it does come, modern folklore says that it arrives full up, or in convoy with other buses to the same destination; or it drives past without stopping, spraying the queue with puddles from a thunderstorm, weather permitting. Or its driver announces more cheerfully than is decent in the circumstances that his shift ends here and so his bus will travel no farther. More passengers would complain about the service if they could find a conductor to complain to. But modern buses have got rid of conductors, making the driver also the collector of the fares, thus making the queues slower, the wait longer and the buses later.

Patience is not a virtue much practised in the modern world of potentially fast transport and instant gratification. Road rage is just one explosion of the frustration built up by fast wheels jammed in stagnant traffic.

The London Underground has experienced some examples of Tube rage. But passengers on buses have learnt to expect the worst, and they are seldom disappointed. They are as much stock characters for waiting for something to turn up as those who have arranged for the gasman to call. Or, it has to be said, as publishers waiting for manuscripts from some professors. Other countries seem to manage their bus timetables and destination boards more efficiently. But the bus pass always seems greener in another system. Railways publish tables of trains running on time, which means up to ten minutes late, and allow delayed season-ticket holders to claim their money back, if they had the patience to fill in the complex forms.

Everybody has always commended patience. The first hero of Western literature, while waiting in his equivalent of a queue for the 271, said: "Be patient, my soul; thou hast suffered even worse delays than this." But his long-suffering resolution would not have stopped Odysseus pacing continuously up and down and looking repeatedly and incredulously at his watch, if he had had one.

So all patient waiters for buses and other things that never come will cheer for Professor Stanton. They may not have the time or patience with the long delays of the law to sue for themselves. But his action speaks for them all. It might just spur the slowcoaches. But in any case, it provides a more cheerful topic of conversation between strangers stuck hopelessly in the bus queue.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Tory party's need to confront 'hard facts' on leadership

From Mr Philip J. Duly

Sir, Amid the growing demand within the Conservative Party for increased membership involvement (letters, May 16, etc.), I detect a reluctance to confront the hard facts surrounding the party's unceremonious removal from office. Widening the franchise for leadership elections may have merit but is unlikely to have a major impact on the party's electoral appeal.

A prerequisite for electoral success is strong leadership and a sense of purpose and direction, something the Conservative Party has lacked since 1990. John Major always sought to distance himself from his predecessor and his government too often appeared to be in power but not in control of events.

The Conservatives now have at least five years and probably longer to redefine their policies. They must be prepared to speak clearly and openly.

Above all, they must occupy the natural Tory territory in defence of the independence of the nation state and argue the case for an urgent renegotiation of Britain's membership terms of the European Union. They must be careful not to neglect their core beliefs: freedom of the individual, minimum state control and increased private provision.

In my view only John Redwood offers the basic essentials for future electoral success: consistency, coherence and clarity.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP J. DULY,  
16 Birchalls, High Lane,  
Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex.  
May 19.

From Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark

Sir, It does not seem possible that only two weeks ago my party had been in office for 18 years that transformed our country into something of which we could all be proud.

After a massive defeat the Conservative rump left at Westminster has become an undisciplined mob who think they are fit to decide the leadership of our party.

I can tell them it's not on, because about 70 per cent of Conservatives are not represented by them, and if we are to climb back to being electable within ten years our supporters in England, Scotland and Wales must have a say. The only action for them, instead of the unseemly battle for leadership, is to elect either Norman Fowler or Tom King for a period of at least 12 months.

### Brown suit

From Mrs Mary Willis

Sir, Perhaps the Chancellor might wear the kilt at the Mansion House banquet (letters, May 13, 14). Indeed it would be a useful visual aid if all Scots MPs representing Scottish constituencies were to do so, as this would help us to see just how over-represented Scotland is at Westminster.

It would be even more useful after the devolution Bill has been rushed through and the Scots have their own parliament as well as their MPs at Westminster voting on matters concerning England.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY WILLIS,  
9 Harvey Court,  
2 Oxford Road, Redhill, Surrey.

### Independent Bank

From Professor Ian Markham

Sir, I am deeply bewildered. Anatole Kaletsky (article, Business, May 9) is adamant that Gordon Brown's decision to accede responsibility for interest rates to the Bank of England will lead to a financial crisis which will culminate in the demise of this Government. The obvious question is: if that is the case, why isn't Germany constantly beset with financial crisis?

This leads to a wider question. The Times has positioned itself as the main representative of Euroscepticism. Europe, we are repeatedly told, is destroying itself with its federalist ambitions for a single currency. Yet statistics show that the vast majority of countries in mainland Europe are richer than us. How is this possible?

Yours sincerely,  
IAN MARKHAM  
(Liverpool Professor of  
Theology and Public Life),  
Liverpool Hope University College,  
Hope Park, Liverpool.

### Bevin's bust

From Sir David Crouch

Sir, If Robin Cook wants a portrait of Ernest Bevin as the Labour Foreign Secretary he most admires (Riddell on Monday, May 12), may I suggest he asks the Director of the Tate Gallery for a loan of the magnificent bust of that great statesman by Sir Jacob Epstein, which the Tate holds.

This unique portrait sculpture (I believe there was only one casting) was lent to the House of Commons in 1988 on what was termed a "long loan" but is no longer on display there. Perhaps a similar "long loan" of, say, five years to the Foreign Secretary might be a nice gesture by the Tate Gallery?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID CROUCH  
(Chairman of the Advisory Committee  
on the Arts to the Speaker, 1983-87),  
The Oast House, Fisher Street,  
Baldern, Faversham, Kent.  
May 12.

and then, having changed the system to give votes to every constituency, see who emerges as a "true" leader.

If they make the wrong move now, I fear the Conservatives may not even end up as the official Opposition in Parliament.

Yours very sincerely,  
ANTHONY BEAUMONT-DARK  
(Conservative MP for  
Selly Oak, 1979-92),  
124 Lady Byron Lane,  
Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands.  
May 16.

From Mr Lawrence T. Roach

Sir, The besetting sin of the British ruling elite is to imagine that the solution to any problem is to be found in choosing the right chap to deal with it. So it is with the Tory party, if Lord Rees-Mogg is to be believed ("Exhausted volcanoes", May 15).

The plea that the selection of a new Conservative leader should be delayed is well made. First decide what you are going to do and then choose the best man to do it. Only in the governance of Britain is that sensible process commonly reversed, to our continuing disadvantage.

Yours sincerely,

LAWRENCE T. ROACH,  
43 Ripon Way,  
Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.

From Ms Janet Girsman

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's prognosis that John Redwood will not be elected as the new leader of the Conservative Party because he correctly warned that they would lose the election was extraordinary.

Is he confirming that the party has not learnt the lesson of their electoral defeat and is still so sodden with sleaze that a leadership contender cannot be honest and find support?

Yours faithfully,  
JANET GIRSMAN,  
61 Oak Tree Drive, Tonbridge, N20.  
May 16.

From Mr Philip Bremridge

Sir, As a lifelong Conservative activist, aged 85, I am simply sickened by reading, in your correspondence columns, one politician after another rubbishising one another, and in your news columns reports of the same.

Why can it not be accepted that most people of all parties enter politics out of a sense of duty and service to their country? Of course, different

principles and different policies will and must be advocated, but they are not advanced by vituperation.

Historically, politics is an honourable profession: let us keep it so.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

PHILIP BREMIDGE  
(Member, Conservative Research  
Department, 1945-51),  
8 Monks Lane,  
The Ridge, Corsham, Wiltshire.

From Mr Philip Bushill-Matthews

Sir, Can we stop the letters saying that "only" candidate X or candidate Y will be right for the job? Can we please agree that whoever is finally chosen then becomes the perfect choice? And that all candidates pledge their support in advance for the winner?

Otherwise, the only winner will be Tony Blair — rather than William Hague, who is of course the only possible choice...

Yours sincerely,

P. BUSHILL-MATTHEWS,  
The Manor House,  
Harbury, Warwickshire.  
May 18.

From Mr David de Mattos

Sir, Does the Conservative Party need a leader in Parliament at this time? There are plenty of able senior Tories of sectional, if not sectarian, views available to question the Prime Minister.

Surely the need is for a party chairman of standing, similar to that of the Speaker of the House of Commons, under whose even-handed guidance the Tory party could recover its poise. Private debate of the party's purposes, structure and place in the political life of this country would serve the party better than the present public disruptive infighting for leadership.

Electing a new leader for the salutary duty of guiding Her Majesty's loyal Opposition should be done when the party has re-established its unity and self-confidence. Such a man may expect to be the Prime Minister to succeed Mr Blair, an unlikely role for anyone elected in present circumstances.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID DE MATTOS  
(Chairman, Criche and  
Witchampton Branch, North Dorset  
Conservative Association),  
Abbey Cottage,  
Witchampton, Wimborne, Dorset.  
May 18.

### Channel Tunnel safety

From Mr Stefan B. Tietz

Sir, While the findings of the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority regarding failures in safety procedures are disturbing (report and leading article, May 14; see also report, May 19), with many of the recommendations clearly demanding attention, calls from others, such as fire-service leaders, for expensive changes to the open-sided rolling stock require better perspective.

According to figures issued by the Department of Transport there are 3.4 deaths or serious injuries per billion passenger kilometres on rail — less than one quarter of those applying to buses and coaches, which are the safest form of domestic surface transport — and less than a fifteenth of injuries associated with car travel.

Perry disasters have also highlighted the hazards of travel by sea. It would be unfortunate if any endeavour to make railway travel yet safer were to transfer traffic to significantly

less safe modes of transport. Hazards may receive unwarranted prominence when addressed by officials whose sole or primary brief is the improvement of safety. Their very brief introduces a bias which needs to be corrected if resources allocated to risk reduction are to remain in balance.

Approximately 17 years ago the late Lord Zuckerman recommended an independent "hazard committee", given the task of advising government on the relative benefits of investing in disparate areas such as nuclear energy or other sources of power, in order to achieve the best value on risk reduction. The Channel Tunnel fire is only the latest of many recent controversies when such a committee would have proved useful by reducing the risk of draconian regulations being drawn up in panic.

Yours faithfully,  
STEFAN B. TIETZ  
(Consulting engineer),  
1 Halsey Street, SW3.  
May 15.

bid fair to providing these islands with long-term security and great prosperity, out of which contributions can soon be expected towards UK defence costs.

Britain, as a founder signatory and leader of the Antarctic Treaty system, seeks to sustain the pristine integrity of that frozen continent, as well as to protect the living resources which surround it. The British Antarctic Survey and today's superbly capable icebreaker, the new *Endurance*, bear clear witness to our commitment in these remote and frigid latitudes.

I trust that our new Government will maintain these southern commitments, whilst at the same time seeking equitable and in due course stable relations with Argentina.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL RANKEN,  
Honorary Secretary,  
SWAG (South West Atlantic Group),  
44 Castelnau Mansions,  
Castelnau, Barnes, SW13.  
May 12.

filling the fields and footpaths with people and dogs during the nesting season.  
3. The large number of foxes in and around the estate.

Partridges are but one of a number of ground-nesting birds which would have suffered in this way. *Plus ça change?*

Yours faithfully,  
HAMILTON OF DALZELL,  
Betchworth House,  
Betchworth, Surrey.  
May 13.

### Cash no solution for British films

From the Editor of Screen Digest

Sir, However welcome lottery money will be for British film production (report, May 18) the problem lies not so much in the making — last year we produced more films than in any year since 1963 — as in the showing.

Typically, about 50 per cent of all American films shown in this country are given a release on 100 screens or more. The proportion of British films given such an opening varies year by year but is likely to be around 5 per cent. Statistically, it is probable that the more films are produced the smaller the proportion that receive "blanket" release.

Our analysis appears to demonstrate not only that American films are much more abundant but that each one of them is up to ten times more likely to get a significant release. Dominance of British exhibition by American-owned distributors may be one of the reasons, as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has reported twice in the last 30 years.

Intervention in distribution is difficult to effect. It seems inescapable, however, that unless investment in production is backed up with support at the distribution and exhibition stages in the film chain, such money will almost certainly not produce the returns that ought to be expected.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID FISHER,  
Editor,  
Screen Digest,  
37 Gower Street, WC1.  
May 16.

From Mr William Marshall

Sir, I have bought my last lottery ticket. Why should the lottery and public money subsidise the so-called "British" film industry?

These movie makers are not producing Rembrandts. They are in it for profit and if they can't make it in the international marketplace that's too bad.

Yours,

W. MARSHALL,  
41 The Drive, Chingford, E4.  
May 15.

### Tobacco advertising

From the Chief Executive of the Association for Public Health

Sir, According to the spokesman for the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association, Clive Turner, "There is no evidence that advertising persuades people to smoke. All it does is persuade smokers to change brands" (report, May 15; see also letters, May 10, 14).

But in the same issue (details, Business) you report that the chief executive of the Imperial Tobacco Group, Gareth Davis, believes that existing voluntary restrictions (on advertising) have worked well in reducing the number of smokers.

If restrictions on advertising cause smokers to give up, then advertising obviously does influence people's smoking. Does Mr Davis know something that Mr Turner doesn't?

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD REID,  
Chief Executive,  
Association for Public Health,  
Hamilton House,  
Mabledon Place, WC1.  
May 16.

### Author's view

From Mrs Jane Whither

Sir, I should like to endorse Lady Antonia Fraser's suggestion of a book windfall for the millennium (letter, May 19) — and to suggest that it should be extended to schools, whose library-book funds have all too often been pillaged in recent years in the pursuit of "computer literacy".

Books purchased with this money could be identified with a specially designed book plate to commemorate the occasion. Such an act would demonstrate commitment to reading for all: I can imagine no more appropriate celebration of the occasion.

Yours faithfully,  
JANE WHITHER,  
35 Market Street,  
Swavesey, Cambridge.  
May 19.

### Fingers in a twist

From Miss H. M. Ridge

Sir, Anybody who is superstitious can tell Tony Banks that fingers crossed (report and photograph, later editions May 14) only works with your hand behind your back.

Yours faithfully,  
HEATHER RIDGE,  
39 Andrews House, Barbican, EC2.  
May 15.

### Minority rights

From Mr Tim Sanders

Sir, The Serious Crime Bureau is to "gather data on all unresolved murders of women, children and homosexuals" (report, later editions, May 16). Any chance of their extending this to cover the rest of us?

Yours faithfully,  
TIM SANDERS,  
8 St Albans Road, NW5.  
May 16.











# The Good University Guide

Education Editor John O'Leary introduces our guide to the best colleges for teaching and research, subject by subject

## Never mind the age, feel the quality

**K**nowing where a university stands in the pecking order of higher education is a vital piece of information for any prospective student, but the quality of the course is what matters most. The most modest institution may have a centre of specialist excellence and even famous universities have mediocre departments.

These pages and two more tomorrow focus on the leading universities in the subjects assessed by the higher education funding councils. In the past year, expert assessors have produced official ratings for research in every subject, but the judgments on teaching are still not complete. The tables in this guide cover all the areas in which teaching has been assessed in England. Not all have been completed in Scotland and Wales, but all-UK tables have been compiled wherever possible.

The assessments, particularly for research, have become increasingly controversial because some universities have reacted to disappointing results by seeking redundancies among their academic staff. Nottingham University is using research performance as a guide to shedding 50 posts, Exeter is proposing to cut 60 jobs and several other universities are developing similar plans.

At its conference last week, the Association of University Teachers threatened action against universities which used the ratings as a basis for dismissals and condemned the research exercise as bureaucratic and lacking in intellectual rigour. But the two sets of assessment give the official verdict on quality in British higher education and are the yardstick by which departments will be judged.

Our rankings have changed to take account of the latest assessments. The individual subject tables combine the ratings for teaching and research, giving each equal weight. Differences in the gradings used by the Scottish and Welsh funding councils have been accommodated by calculating an equivalent on the English scale.

The tables confirm the dominance of the traditional universities in most areas of higher education. This is to be expected in research, where decades of differential funding have left the former polytechnics struggling to compete. With some notable exceptions, the traditional universities have established a stranglehold on the top grades.



Meeting the challenge: students on the campus at the University of Sheffield, which features in the top 20 in most subjects and tops the league in architecture, Russian and mechanical engineering

Less predictably, however, the ratings for teaching usually tell the same story. This is partly because the academics who inspect departments take into account facilities such as library stock, while the traditional universities' generally smaller teaching groups also give them an advantage. The new

universities may come into their own as more applied subjects are included, but few of their departments feature at the top of the tables on these pages.

Thames Valley University is the exception which proves the rule, matching Cambridge for top spot in linguistics. TVU collected maximum ratings for both teaching and research, overtaking universities with higher entrance requirements. Overall, however, Cambridge is

again by far the most successful university, with eight top placings and bettered in only five of the subjects in which it offers undergraduate courses. University College London has the next highest number of top finishes, with Oxford, Sheffield, East Anglia, the London School of Economics and King's College London also leaders in more than one subject.

The subject rankings demonstrate that there are horses for

courses in higher education. The LSE is more than a match for its rivals in the social sciences, for example, while Imperial College, London confirms its reputation as an international force in engineering. In their own fields, table-toppers such as Essex in sociology and East Anglia in environmental sciences are equally well-known.

Rankings for architecture, French, geography and social policy vary slightly from those pub-

lished in the book of *The Times Good University Guide*, which is published by HarperCollins. The changes correct errors discovered since the book went to press.

● *Reports on departments in England and Northern Ireland are available from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Northavon House, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol BS16 1QD. Tel: 0117-931-7493.*

● *Those for universities in Scotland can be ordered from the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council, Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh. EH12 5HD. Tel: 0131-313-6500.*

● *Reports on Welsh departments from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, Lambourne House, Cardiff CF4 5GL. Tel: 01222-761861.*

### ARTS

My father's dream.  
Zoë Wannamaker  
on the opening  
of the Globe Theatre.

### INTERFACE

Technology's role  
in saving the  
rain forests.

## IN TOMORROW'S TIMES

### FOOTBALL

England  
prepare to take on  
South Africa  
this Saturday.

### CRICKET

A preview of the first  
one-day international  
between England  
and Australia.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES

### ANTHROPOLOGY



**LAST** December's research rankings confirmed Cambridge's domination of anthropology. The university boasted the only department with the coveted five-star grade, denoting international excellence.

Four universities have overtaken Oxford since last year. Brunel, Manchester, University College London and the London School of Economics were awarded five stars for research, to Oxford's four.

Anthropology is one of the smallest subjects to have been fully assessed in England and Northern Ireland. There are, as yet, no ratings for teaching in Scotland or Wales, although Cardiff and Swansea have been graded as satisfactory for joint sociology and anthropology degrees.

All but three of the 14 departments in England and Northern Ireland were considered excellent for teaching. Queen's University, Belfast, Thames Valley University and Goldsmiths College, London, were rated satisfactory.

Brunel University registered the biggest rise in this year's table — from tenth to second — after improving its research rating. The subject is taught in three joint degrees, with psychology, sociology and communications. Assessors who judged the teaching excellent found the courses "intellectually demanding and stimulating", the students coming from an "impressive range of backgrounds".

The subject is taught mainly in traditional universities, but Oxford Brookes matched Kent and Sussex for ninth place after improving its research rating.

- |    |                              |
|----|------------------------------|
| 1  | Cambridge                    |
| 2  | Brunel, LSE, UCL, Manchester |
| 6  | Durham, Oxford               |
| 8  | SOAS                         |
| 9  | Kent, Sussex, Oxford Brookes |
| 12 | Goldsmiths                   |

(Total Institutions: 12)

### BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT



**THE** award of the highest possible grading for research has enabled the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology to claim top spot in this year's table.

The only other university to earn a 5\* rating with UMIST was Lancaster, helping it to hold fourth place.

Warwick and the London School of Economics, joint top last year, share second place after receiving ratings of 5 for their research.

Some of the well-known business schools are omitted from the list because they do not provide undergraduate teaching. The London Business School was the only other institution among 96 surveyed in the latest Research Assessment Exercise to gain a 5\* grade along with UMIST and Lancaster.

Bath owes its climb from ninth to fifth place on a 5\* rating for research, indicating international excellence in some areas and national excellence in most others. The same grading was given to the departments at Cardiff, Southampton, Strathclyde and Warwick.

The English funding council

reported that business and management studies were "thriving" in higher education institutions, against a background of significant increases in student numbers and at a time of pressure on resources. Students can select from a range of courses.

Features judged to have excellent teaching included the provision of practical experience, strong pastoral support and high completion and employment rates of students.

- |    |                              |
|----|------------------------------|
| 1  | UMIST                        |
| 2  | LSE, Warwick                 |
| 4  | Lancaster                    |
| 5  | Bath                         |
| 6  | City, Manchester, Nottingham |
| 9  | Strathclyde                  |
| 10 | Loughborough                 |
| 11 | Edinburgh, Imperial          |
| 13 | Cranfield, St Andrews        |
| 15 | De Montfort                  |
| 16 | Surrey                       |
| 17 | Kingston                     |
| 18 | Bradford, Cambridge, Keele   |

(Total Institutions: 80)

### ARCHITECTURE



**CAMBRIDGE** retains its position at the top of the table but is joined this year by the strong departments at Sheffield and University College London.

The quality of teaching on architecture courses has been found to be universally good by funding council assessors.

Institutions were said to be coping well with the changing nature of the discipline. The English funding council commented: "Architecture courses have a strong professional focus and students are able to enjoy a lively and often varied educational experience."

Most institutions were said to have exemplary arrangements for practical training with rigorously monitored placements in offices.

Teaching quality was assessed in 1994 and gradings of excellent awarded to Bath, Cambridge, East London, Glasgow School of Art, Greenwich, UCL, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield, Strathclyde and York. In the latest Research Assessment Exercise, three institutions received the 5\* rating reserved for departments showing international excellence in a majority of areas: Cambridge and Sussex Universities and the Courtauld Institute of Art. The 5-rated departments were at Essex, Leeds, SOAS, UCL and the Open University.

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Cambridge, UCL, Sheffield                                  |
| 4  | Cardiff  |
| 5  | Newcastle, Nottingham, York                                |
| 8  | Bath   |
| 9  | Strathclyde  |
| 10 | Greenwich  |
| 11 | East London  |
| 12 | Liverpool  |
| 13 | Oxford Brookes   |
| 14 | Robert Gordon  |
| 15 | Queen's (Belfast)  |
| 16 | Brighton, Liverpool, JMU, Portsmouth, Kingston, Manchester |

(Total Institutions: 29)

### CHEMICAL ENGINEERING



**IMPERIAL** College, London, is rewarded for earning the highest rating of any British institution for research in chemical engineering.

Cambridge, in second place, actually received a slightly better score than Imperial from the funding council for the quality of its undergraduate teaching. But Cambridge's 5-grade for research was topped by Imperial's 5\*.

Bath, Birmingham, UMIST and University College London also recorded grades of 5 for research, while Loughborough and UMIST matched Imperial's teaching score.

The overall quality of chemical engineering courses was found to be high by the English funding council when it assessed undergraduate teaching.

The accreditation of courses by the Institute of Chemical Engineers was considered important for preserving standards, although its demands limited the flexibility of undergraduate programmes. Praise was given to specialists to give specialist lectures and tutorials, especially in the

final year, were given. The award of first and upper-second class honours varied among institutions from 18 per cent to 70 per cent. Assessors found that, overall, chemical engineering leads to "good prospects for employment in industry, commerce and academe" for its graduates.

- |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Imperial          |
| 2  | Cambridge         |
| 3  | UMIST             |
| 4  | Bath              |
| 5  | Loughborough      |
| 6  | UCL               |
| 7  | Queen's (Belfast) |
| 8  | Birmingham        |
| 9  | Newcastle         |
| 10 | Bradford          |
| 11 | Nottingham        |
| 12 | Surrey            |
| 13 | Leeds             |
| 14 | Aston             |
| 15 | South Bank        |
| 16 | Teesside          |

(Total Institutions: 16)



# THE GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE

## CHEMISTRY

**OXFORD** and **Cambridge** retain their place in joint pole position for chemistry after gaining the only two superlative 5\* grades for the quality of their research. Both universities, which have the largest chemistry research departments in the country at 72 and 55 staff respectively, also recorded gradings of excellent for their undergraduate teaching.

The marginally lower score awarded to Nottingham for not entering all its chemistry staff in the Research Assessment Exercise sees it slip into tenth place from third in this year's very competitive table. It is replaced in third spot by four institutions with excellent teaching records which also gained a 5-rating for research after entering 95 per cent or more of departmental staff for assessment.

Three former polytechnics were awarded a grading of excellent for their undergraduate

- 1- Cambridge, Oxford
- 2- Bristol, Edinburgh, Leeds, Imperial
- 3- Hull, Leicester, St Andrews
- 4- Southampton, Durham, Nottingham
- 5- Cardiff, Manchester, Strathclyde
- 6- Glasgow
- 7- Bangor
- 8- Heriot-Watt
- 9- Bath, UCL, Reading, Sheffield, York

(Total Institutions: 66)

## COMPUTING

**THE** computer science department at **Cambridge** is joined at the top by two others which matched its 5\* performance in the Research Assessment Exercise: **Warwick** and **York**.

Oxford, equal top last year, drops to equal fifth because, although it gained a 5\* for research, it did not enter as many departmental staff to be assessed as those above it in the table.

Other 5\* scores, signifying research of international excellence in most areas, were given to **Glasgow** and **Imperial**, while grade 5 was earned by **Bath**, **Bristol**, **Dundee**, **Edinburgh**, **Lancaster**, **Manchester**, **Newcastle**, **Southampton**, **Sussex** and **UCL**.

Just eight out of more than 100 computer science departments have been judged as excellent for their undergraduate teaching. Along with the three in top places, these were **Edinburgh**, **Glasgow**, **Imperial College**, **Manchester** and **Oxford**.

This was the lowest proportion of any subject assessed by

- 1- Cambridge, Warwick, York
- 2- Edinburgh
- 3- Glasgow, Imperial, Oxford
- 4- Exeter, Swansea
- 5- Manchester, Southampton
- 6- Kent
- 7- Bath, Heriot-Watt, Dundee, Lancaster, St Andrews, Bristol
- 8- Aberystwyth, Cardiff

(Total Institutions: 93)

## ENGLISH

**BOTH** Oxford and **University College London** scored maximum points for English, having entered all their academics in last year's Research Assessment Exercise. Cambridge, which was the other university with a 5\* research department, held some staff out.

English is one of the most competitive subjects, in terms of academic ratings as well as entrance requirements for undergraduates. Only six universities out of 58 - **Birmingham**, **Leeds**, **Sussex**, **York**, **Cardiff** and **Queen Mary and Westfield College, London** - reached the next rung of the research ladder.

Teaching was judged more generously by the funding councils' assessors. In England, more than a third of the departments were rated as excellent. Two in Wales received a similar accolade. Ratings for Scottish universities are yet to be published, but the absence of departments north of the border from the top two research categories

- 1- UCL, Oxford
- 2- Leeds
- 3- Cambridge
- 4- Leicester, Warwick, Nottingham, Southampton
- 5- Birmingham, Sussex, Queen Mary, Sussex, York
- 6- Bristol, Durham, Lancaster, Liverpool, Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam
- 7- Newcastle, Queen's (Belfast)

(Total Institutions: 58)

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**READING** and the **University of East Anglia** top our ranking for environmental sciences as the only departments with a 5\* rating for research. They were already among 16 universities rated excellent for teaching.

The area, which includes meteorology, oceanography and ecology, is one in which the new universities are well represented.

**Plymouth**, with a well-established reputation in oceanography, is the leading example, in fifth place, but **Hertfordshire**, **Greenwich** and **Manchester Metropolitan** all appear in the top ten.

The new universities' emphasis on teaching was reflected in the scarcity of top research grades in the latest assessment. Only third-placed **Lancaster** achieved a grade five, with **Edinburgh**, **Imperial College**, **London**, and the **University College of North Wales**, at **Bangor**, the only grade four.

**Reading**, which moved up from last year's second place, was praised by assessors for the quality of its staff, modern curriculum and good library facilities. The report on its

- 1- East Anglia, Reading
- 2- Lancaster
- 3- Southampton
- 4- Plymouth
- 5- Ulster
- 6- Hertfordshire, Stirling
- 7- Greenwich
- 8- Bradford, Manchester Metro
- 9- Dundee, Kent
- 10- Staffordshire
- 11- Bournemouth, Luton, Middlesex, Sunderland
- 12- Anglia
- 13- Derby, Liverpool, JMU, Wolverhampton

(Total Institutions: 20)

## If I don't get a degree, I'll sue

Are universities legally bound to provide what they promised, asks **Hugh Thompson**

**D**idn't get the degree you wanted? Course was not what you expected? Didn't think much of the teaching? Didn't get the job you expected? Didn't get the standard of accommodation you were promised? Pelt the whole university experience was a waste of time? Was your course and campus oversold? Well, why not sue?

After all, on legal aid you have little to lose and why shouldn't universities, like the health and social services, holiday companies, retailers and banks, have a legal duty to provide what they promise?

According to some reports there are hundreds of student-versus-university cases going through the system. Students claiming damages for getting an inferior grant, loss of earnings, poor facilities, becoming depressed, lack of job placements, the difference between what is being offered and what was provided, especially relevant with modular courses. That's on top of the almost ritual cases of students suing for poor grades.

In the eight years that Professor **Roderick Floud** has been provost of **London Guildhall University** the typical numbers of threatened or actual legal actions have risen from one or two a year to around a dozen. The vast majority concern students threatening action over bad examination results. However, none of these cases ran its course and only three were settled out of court, the most significant when a student claimed she had been verbally abused by a lecturer.

Professor **Floud** says **Guildhall's** experience is close to the norm for new universities, which do not have the older universities' appeals procedures. "We are having to divert considerable management and financial resources to resist these claims. Not only are these cases very time-consuming but we have to take expensive legal advice to make sure our defence is sound."

Lawyers specialising in this area



Oxford Brookes University: "It is healthy that students are exercising their rights," says the Pro-Chancellor

say they are surprised that it has taken this long for this situation to develop. If a lawyer, surveyor, architect or doctor is negligent, they expect to pay compensation. So it should be with teachers.

"At the moment the situation for the universities is manageable, but unless they are more careful it could get out of control, as it has in other areas of professional life," says **Stephen Hocking**, a partner with **London law firm Beachcroft Stanleys**. "It's all part of the trend of consumers in all walks of life demanding their rights."

**Mr Hocking** adds: "It's strange with so many more students, many older and more focused on specific careers, that it has not happened before. It isn't necessary for universities to go overboard. They should just realise that the environment has changed and they should reduce

their exposure to legal risks."

One way suggested by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals is for students, before they start a course, to sign a contract which requires all disputes to go to arbitration (as in many areas of commerce) rather than go to expensive law. This idea was put forward by Professor **Clive Booth**, Pro-Chancellor of **Oxford Brookes University**, who says: "It is healthy that students are exercising their rights. Complaints have a positive influence on quality."

However, Professor **Booth** adds: "Especially with those trying to influence their degree results, there is an element of trying it on. We have too many threatening legal action in an unprincipled way as a means of trying to raise their degree grades." The **Nolan Committee** has suggested binding arbitration to weed out the frivolous cases, thereby saving unnecessary legal costs.

Lawyers quote four and five-fold increases in student cases in the past year. Students seek redress for tutors who have missed tutorials, failed to mark work, or, in one case, refused to talk to his PhD student.

Where modules are offered but staff leave and the university cannot provide a replacement, students are on firm legal ground. One lawyer quotes a student who, on a computing and Spanish degree, found after two years she had done no Spanish. Another student doing environmental sciences felt that without the advertised pollution module, the course was professionally devalued.

But some of these cases are the proverbial hot air which pervades all student affairs. The **National Union of Students**, which normally takes a radical stand, states: "This is not a major problem. Most complaints are handled internally. Today's students are more aware and are confident but when it comes to serious cases actually getting to the courts, we are only talking about a handful a year, if that."

**Nicola Hart**, head of the education team at **Birmingham solicitors, Martineau Johnson**, says: "There is no question that some lawyers are trying to talk this whole area up. In fact, most of these complaints are resolved long before they come to litigation. If there is a positive in all this, it is that all universities have had to harden up their internal complaints procedures so as to head off these cases before they become too expensive."

## FRENCH

**TWO** new universities - **Portsmouth** and **Westminster** - achieved the best results in last year's review of teaching in French. But **University College London's** 5\* grading for research allowed it to overhaul its 29 rivals.

Oxford and Cambridge, which, together with **Nottingham**, also reached the top research grade, were among 45 institutions teaching French which chose to be assessed on modern languages as a whole. They are not included in this table, although **Northumbria** and **Queen Mary and Westfield College, London**, matched the best scores for teaching quality.

Assessors found the standard of teaching at English universities to be generally high, although they regretted the limited opportunities for part-time study. More than half the students are female and more than half are awarded first or upper-second class degrees.

Most language laboratories were considered well-resourced, but assessors found significant deficiencies in a minority of libraries, often in new universities.

## GEOGRAPHY

**THE** FOUR top universities for geography have all scored maximum points for teaching and research. The introduction of the starred five for research has enabled **Bristol**, **Cambridge**, **Durham** and **University College London** to pull away from **Oxford**, now in eighth place.

Assessors of teaching in geography were among the most generous with top ratings. Thirty institutions, including three colleges of higher education, were judged to be excellent. **Cheltenham** and **Gloucester**, **Canterbury Christ Church** and the **Liverpool Institute** joined three former polytechnics on the top rung.

Of the new universities, only **Coventry** and **Portsmouth** make our top 20, however. The reason is that last December's research ratings reverted to type. **Christ Church** joined

- 1- Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, UCL
- 2- Leeds, Sheffield, Southampton
- 3- Edinburgh, Lancaster, Nottingham, Oxford, UEA
- 4- Birmingham, Exeter, Kings, Queen Mary, Manchester, Reading, Swansea
- 5- Aberdeen, Coventry, Glasgow, Portsmouth, St Andrews

(Total Institutions: 60)



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# THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR: Patricia Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MAY 20 1997



Air smiles: but Bob Ayling's sunny visage yesterday may be darkened if British Airways cabin crew vote in favour of industrial action next month

## Bonuses fail to fend off attack on BA staff relations

By Jon Ashworth

BRITISH AIRWAYS revealed a bumper bonus package averaging £1,100 for its 58,000 employees yesterday but was accused of having a "19th century mill-owner approach to industrial relations" ahead of its cabin crew balloting over industrial action.

Pre-tax profits rose 9.4 per cent to £640 million in the year to March 31, leaving BA's UK-based staff with an average bonus of almost £1,100 each, or about 3.3 weeks' basic pay. Employees are to share a £94 million in shared profits, plus ten free BA shares each.

The windfall comes as BA cabin crew prepare to vote on industrial action. Members of the British Airways Stewards and Stewardesses Association (BASSA), part of the T&G union, are protesting over new terms and conditions. The ballot result will be announced on June 27.

Bill Morris, general secretary of T&G, attacked BA after it closed the BASSA offices at Gatwick and Heathrow.

BA hopes to learn soon whether its alliance with American Airlines will be cleared to proceed. Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said he had been "picking up the threads" with government ministers and hoped the matter would be treated with all due dispatch.

Royal Airlines, led by United Airlines and Lufthansa, combined last week to create the Star Alliance, lending increased urgency to BA's calls.

BA's operating profits fell 25 per cent to £540 million (£728 million), dragged down by a 20 per cent rise in fuel costs, together with a £127 million write-back of a provision against BA's stake in USAir, soon to be disposed of, largely cancelled out the shortfall. BA wrote down the value of its

USAir investment by 50 per cent two years ago.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chairman, said: "Economic conditions in British Airways' major markets are expected to produce continuing growth in demand for air travel during the next 12 months, with the UK and US economies still strong. Sterling's current strength will adversely impact profits, although it is anticipated that this will at least partially be offset by lower fuel prices and further business efficiency improvements."

The rise in fuel prices trimmed £55 million from operating profits last year, but prices have now eased. BA's efficiency drive will provide more than £200 million in savings in the current financial year, rising to £600 million in the year to March 2000.

BA admitted to serious baggage problems at Heathrow

Terminal One, but said the situation is under control. The company blamed BAA, which is upgrading baggage systems, but faces separate difficulties with BA baggage handlers. Some 2,800 workers in Aircraft Services at Heathrow face a two-year pay freeze, the introduction of better working practices and lower wage rates for new recruits.

BA carried 38 million passengers last year. Passenger yield on mainland scheduled services improved 1.3 per cent, but cargo yield fell 8.8 per cent, hit by excess capacity and fierce price competition. Mr Ayling said BA is looking to expand its non-core activities.

The shares fell 24p to 736p. Fully diluted earnings per share increased 14.9 per cent to 50.8p. A final dividend of 10.80p (9.8p) a share makes a total of 15.05p (13.65p).

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4945.2	(-48.7)
Yield	3.51%	
FTSE All share	2211.91	(-19.07)
Nickel	20489.75	(+165.00)
New York		
Dow Jones	7188.90	(-5.77)*
S&P Composite	830.21	(+0.48)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	95 1/8%	(95 1/8%)
Yield	6.91%	(6.91%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	8 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Libor long bill	11 3/4%	(11 3/4%)
Future (June)	11 3/4%	(11 3/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.5377*	(1.5385)
London	1.5385	(1.5377)
DM	2.7373	(2.7740)
FF	9.4184	(9.3444)
SFR	2.3403	(2.3241)
Yen	193.37	(193.84)
£ Index	99.2	(99.6)

US DOLLAR

London	1.7100*	(1.6925)
DM	5.7575*	(5.5985)
SFR	1.4287*	(1.4200)
Yen	116.05*	(115.70)
£ Index	102.4	(101.9)

Tokyo close Yen 116.33

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$20.15	(\$20.20)
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GOLD

London close	\$341.25	(\$344.75)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Surplus knocks PSBR forecasts

By Alasdair Murray

THE government borrowing requirement this year looks likely to be significantly lower than forecast after data published yesterday showed the public sector running a budget surplus in April.

The Government was able to repay £36 million of debt last month compared with a deficit of around £3 billion in April last year. The City had been expecting a public sector borrowing requirement in the region of £1.4 billion.

Economists predicted that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, would be able to make a downward revision to the Government's PSBR forecast, which stands at £19.2 billion. In the mini-Budget expected next month, but the Treasury played down the figures, saying they had been flattered by one-off windfalls, including around £1.25 billion of receipts from the sale of the Housing Corporation loan-book and the Ministry of Defence married quarters.

The data was well received on the foreign exchanges with the pound closing up nearly two-and-a-half pence at DM2.7981. Sterling's trade weighted index also climbed over half a point to 99.2. But the FT-SE 100 fell 48.7 points to close at 4,945.2.

VAT receipts were up 41.5 per cent to £1.4 billion, although the Treasury estimated that around £1 billion of this was because of larger companies paying their VAT bills on a quarterly basis. Income tax receipts rose 10.6 per cent and social security contributions were up 11.6 per cent.

## OFT investigates Dixons over 'strong-arm tactics'

By Robert Miller

DIXONS, Britain's largest electrical retailer, could face a formal inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading over alleged "strong-arm tactics" to have rivals excluded from out-of-town shopping centres.

The high street chain, headed by Sir Shirley Kalma, has been accused of using an "unfair and anti-competitive" strategy to force developers of out-of-town centres to deny floor space to Dixons' competitors. Angry rivals claim that consumers are being forced to pay much higher prices for personal computers, videos and other electrical goods at shopping parks because of a lack of competition. In documents seen by *The Times*, the

OFT writes to many of Dixons' rivals asking for information last month.

The investigation follows other OFT inquiries into Dixons' activities, notably on the selling of extended warranties on electrical goods at its stores. This recommended in December 1994 that a code of practice be introduced. The code is currently being reviewed by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The OFT letter, signed by Donald Mason of the Competition Policy Division, said: "We are considering a complaint against Dixons Group (DGS) concerning its policy in regard to leasing space on retail parks. In many cases it is a condition of DG's taking space on a retail park that the retail park landlord does not

let space to any other, or to more than one other, retailer of electrical goods or personal computer equipment". The OFT sought replies by May 9, but is still waiting for some to return.

Simon Fox, chief executive of Office World, filed a complaint with the OFT after he was told by the developers of the Festival Park in Stoke-on-Trent that his company could not rent space because it did not want to be a subsidiary of Dixons, a subsidiary of Dixons, would pull out of a planned shop leasing deal. Mr Fox complained to Dixons but was told in a reply from Martin Meech, group property director of Dixons: "We are ensuring that competition to our operation is kept to a minimum."

Mr Fox said: "We have

grown from nothing to 30 stores in seven years because we offer our goods at competitive prices. Overall consumers who shop for computer and electrical equipment centres at out-of-town sites must be paying millions of pounds more because of the lack of competition."

Michael Kraftman, a director of Tempco, another electrical and computer retailer, said: "We have passed details of six specific instances to the OFT where we believe Dixons has used its muscle to keep us out. If you have three or four competitors on the same site it has to be good for consumers."

Helen Jones, company secretary of Kingfisher, which owns Woolworths, B&Q and Comet, the electrical retailer, and has responded to the OFT

inquiry, said last night: "Seeking restrictions on who can lease out-of-town sites is a tactic which doesn't work for very long."

Dixons does not deny that it has insisted on certain restrictive clauses being included in rental contracts. The company said: "Dixons, like any other retailer, is free to negotiate the terms on which it is prepared to invest in these developments and, as you would expect with any business, we will seek the best terms possible when we negotiate a lease. Sometimes this involves negotiating lease restrictions with our landlords. A practice which is not unique to Dixons or to electrical retailing."

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## Rowland's role key to Lonrho

By Paul Durman

TINY ROWLAND, ousted two years ago from Lonrho, has re-emerged at the heart of the latest wranglings to decide the future of the African mining group that he created.

Contrary to expectations of some analysts, Mr Rowland, 79, has been re-elected to the board of Ashanti Goldfields, the Ghanaian mining company that seems to hold the key to a £2 billion merger of Lonrho with JCI, a South African mining company headed by Mzi Khumalo, a former political prisoner. Mr Rowland's fellow directors of Ashanti include Nick Morrell, his successor as Lonrho chief executive.

Mr Rowland's reappointment surprised Charles Ker- not, analyst with Paribas Capital Markets, who had been

led to believe that Ashanti was severing its links with him. Although Mr Rowland rarely attends Ashanti board meetings, he would receive confidential company papers.

Lonrho's 41 per cent stake in Ashanti is covered by Anglo American, the South African mines group being forced to cut its 28 per cent stake in Lonrho.

Mr Khumalo was in London yesterday. Lonrho said that its talks with JCI were only preliminary, with no firm terms tabled. It is thought that JCI is willing to be taken over via an all-share deal.

Analysts believe the talks may flush out a bid for Lonrho from mining groups such as Anglovaal or BHP of Australia.

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## Watchdog calls truce with ScottishPower

By Christine Buckley

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE electricity regulator has backed down from a fight with ScottishPower that could have delivered a £15-a-year cut in household bills. Instead, Professor Stephen Littlechild agreed to a £6-a-year bill cut in order to end a protracted legal battle between the two.

The watchdog's office denied that Professor Littlechild had climbed down. A spokesman said he had ensured benefits for customers when the next stage in the clash — a possible House of Lords challenge by the regulator — may have yielded nothing.

The 2 per cent cut in ScottishPower's bills means its pricing regime is now



Littlechild: "good deal"

similar to Hydro-Electric, the other Scottish electricity company. ScottishPower has been fighting to be treated the same as Hydro-Electric. It successfully challenged the regula-

tor's 1994 price formula at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and in 1995 won an overhaul of the way Scottish prices are compared with English generating prices.

The regulator refused to treat ScottishPower on the same basis as its neighbour. ScottishPower sought a judicial review, which decided in favour of the regulator. An appeal by ScottishPower was upheld in February. Then Professor Littlechild said he would seek leave to appeal at the House of Lords. Yesterday, he said it was a "good deal" and ScottishPower's customers would see a further cut in their bills "of at least 2 per cent later this year".

ScottishPower said it had saved about £10 million on the cuts it may have had to make.

## Savoy refit near to completion

By Alasdair Murray

THE Savoy Group is on the verge of completing its £62 million refurbishment project and should reap the full benefits in the second half of the year, the luxury hotels company told its shareholders yesterday.

But Sir Ewen Ferguson, the Savoy's chairman, was unable to elaborate on the future of Granada's 63 per cent stake in the company, which is valued at around £200 million.

Discussions are understood to have begun on the disposal of the stake, which was acquired after Granada's takeover of Fortis, but a final decision may take until the end of the year.

The disposal is complicated by the fact that the Granada

shares carry no voting rights. Reform of the Savoy Group share structure, which would enable Granada to place the stake in the market, would require the agreement of the Wontner family who possess voting control of the company.

Sir Ewen told the annual shareholders meeting that the extensive renovation programme at the company's five hotels would be finished within a month. He added that the company would be able to enjoy the full benefits of the scheme next year but the completion of work at The Berkeley in Knightsbridge had already led to a very significant improvement in room rate and occupancy levels. Savoy "A" shares closed up 5p at £14.65.

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## Parties agree terms in Barings bond row

By Jon Ashworth

**BONDHOLDERS** in the collapsed Barings group are a step closer to winning at least some of their money back, after a breakthrough in negotiations with the Barings administrators.

Nigel Hamilton, Alan Bloom and Maggie Mills of Ernst & Young announced yesterday that agreement over a settlement with bondholders had been reached in principle. This follows a year of negotiations overseen by the City Disputes Panel, which seeks to act as an alternative to the courts in resolving disputes.

Both sides have agreed terms, and the settlement will now be put to the courts for ratification. There is speculation that bondholders could receive 50 to 60 per cent of their money back, while those who subscribed to a £100 million issue of subordinated notes could see 25p in the pound.

The two main issues of bonds occurred in 1985 and 1994. All three classes of bondholders initiated legal action against the defunct Barings plc and its directors, as well as advisers to the issues, including Barings Brothers, Hoare Govett, Cazenove and Barclays de Zeeuw. They alleged mis-selling, and were pressing for compensation under the Financial Services Act (1986).

The losers included elderly investors lured by the high rates of interest on offer, and life and pension funds such as Scottish Amicable and Legal & General. Another victim was Downside, Britain's oldest Roman Catholic public school, whose charitable trust lost £50,000. Father Charles, the Abbot of Downside, has campaigned tirelessly to replenish the charity's coffers.

Holders of the 1994 notes are likely to fare the best. This money was lent on to one of the companies in the Barings securities arm that is still trading, and investors can expect to receive a more generous offer. Thousands of bondholders lost £275 million in the collapse.



Richard Anderson, left, and Sid Taylor, respectively chief executive and chairman of Independent Parts, the components group, increased pre-tax profits from £3.7 million to £4.2 million in the year to March 31. The total dividend rises from 6.0p to 6.2p after a maintained 4p final. Earnings fell from 12.6p to 12.2p. The group said that it managed a strong sales performance in tough markets. Sales were up from £20.3 million to £25.6 million

## Sterling claims another casualty as Glaxo issues profit warning

By Eric Reguly

THE strong pound continued to take its toll of Britain's leading companies when Glaxo Wellcome, the world's largest pharmaceuticals group, gave warning yesterday that profits will decline by 5 per cent this year if sterling remains at current levels.

Sir Colin Corness, chairman, told the company's annual shareholders' meeting that the strong pound wiped

out the 10 per cent rise in sales in the first four months of this year. Glaxo shares fell 3 1/2p, or 2.6 per cent, to 125 1/2p as a result.

Most analysts left their profit forecasts unchanged in spite of the currency warning. Glaxo said early in the year that the strength of sterling would cut into profits, but did not put a figure on the expected damage.

John Murphy, analyst at Goldman Sachs, the Wall

Street investment firm, is still calling for pre-tax profits of £2.81 billion, or 54p a share, this year. In 1996, the company reported pre-tax profits of £2.96 billion, or 56.7p a share.

The forecast fall in year-on-year profits is entirely because of the loss of US patent protection on Zantac, the anti-ulcer treatment that is Glaxo's bestselling product, in the summer. Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive, said Zantac

could lose as much as 90 per cent of its US sales. In the first four months, total Zantac sales declined 7 per cent as competing products gained market share.

Zantac accounted for almost 50 per cent of Glaxo's sales in 1990. The figure has since fallen to 20 per cent and Sir Richard said generic competition could force down Zantac's share to as little as 10 per cent.

Novopharm, the Canadian drugs manufacturer, will launch

the first generic form of Zantac, known as ranitidine hydrochloride, in the US on July 9. Glaxo is gambling that new products will more than offset Zantac's decline. Sir Richard said that Glaxo will achieve single-digit sales growth in 1997 and 1998 and return to double-digit growth in 1999 as new drugs take up the slack. Sales in the first four months of this year were £2.75 billion, up 10 per cent in constant exchange-rate terms.

Sales of other products were up 15 per cent in the period, with respiratory, anti-viral and central nervous system products leading the way. With the decline of Zantac, respiratory products now form the company's largest therapy area.

The annual meeting marked the retirement of Sir Colin. He was succeeded as chairman by Sir Richard, who retains the chief executive's title. Sean Lanes, the chief operating officer, is to become chief executive in a year.

Commentary, page 31

## AMP prepares new UK bid

By Caroline Merrell and Rachel Bridge

AMP, the Australian life insurer that owns Pearl Assurance and London Life, has appointed DLJ Phoenix, a mergers and acquisitions specialist, to work on a bid for another UK life company.

NPI, Friends Provident and Norwich Union have all been tipped as takeover candidates.

AMP, one of Australia's biggest life insurance companies, is in the process of shedding its mutual status. Rebuilt as a purchaser for Scottish Amicable, it is expected to make any bid move before its float later this year. AMP will be following in the footsteps of Colonial, which yesterday became the second Australian life insurer to demutualise. The first was

National Mutual of Australia. British shareholders who sold their holdings in Colonial on the first day of trading would have made, on average, £1,300.

Colonial's shares rose 9p above their listing price to £1.56 (£53.31). The rise represents an instant 27 per cent gain for the group's UK policyholders, who were issued shares at £1.22 (£52.60) as part of the group's demutualisation

last year. However, those who sold immediately will get only £1.30 per share because of the structure of the share sale and the strength of sterling.

Around 255,000 UK policyholders qualified for shares. Each received a basic allocation of 225 shares, more than half were allocated at least 1,000 shares. More than 100,000 of the UK shareholders opted to sell immediately.

## Thrifty Britons save £18bn in first quarter

By Anne Ashworth

BRITAIN was gripped by a wave of thrift in the first quarter of this year.

Combined personal savings in bank and building society accounts, National Savings, unit trusts, pensions and life assurance increased 26 per cent. Some £18 billion was invested, £10 billion of this being deposited with banks and building societies, according to the Abbey National Savings Index.

Barry Naisbitt, Abbey National economist, attributed the rise to the continuing trend towards higher incomes. He added that some of the savings could have been motivated by general uncertainty before the general election.

For example, contributions to pension plans were up 12 per cent, at £4.9 billion, as people moved to use their tax relief before the end of the 1996-97 tax year and a possibly

less lenient regime under a new Government.

Savers were also busily opening accounts with building societies tipped for takeover or conversion, in the hope of a bonus, or topping up their accounts with converting societies to ensure that they qualified for free shares.

Abbey National yesterday revealed increases in its own savers' rates, following the base rate rise earlier this month. Rates will rise by up to 0.30 per cent.

The Abbey is the only the second leading institution to reveal its new rates, following the Bradford & Bingley Building Society's announcement last week.

The summer promises to see fierce competition for deposits, as banks and building societies vie for investors' cash after building society windfall payouts.

## First float in City for Japan

By Gavin Lumsden

HITACHI Credit UK, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Hitachi Credit Corporation of Japan, is to become the first Japanese company to float on the London Stock Exchange.

The company aims to raise between £15 million and £20 million in a placing of shares with institutions. David Anthony, general manager, said that the money would be used to expand HCUK's operations in business and retail credit, insurance and contract hire — which trade under the banner of Nova — and Fleetlease, the contract hire and fleet management arm bought in 1991.

HCUK is also considering entering the store card market over the next 12 months. "We are a capital-hungry company, expanding rapidly in all our areas," said Mr Anthony.

HCC will retain a 60 per cent stake after the float.

## Exchange hits 'shadows' with tighter AIM rules

By Fraser Nelson

THE London Stock Exchange has tightened regulations on the Alternative Investment Market to try to crack down on unnamed "shadow advisers" who pull the strings of AIM companies without detection.

Under the biggest overhaul of rules to date, new entrants to the junior exchange will be obliged to name anyone who

has received more than £10,000 in either cash or shares in the year before admission. This is a requirement stricter than that imposed on companies seeking admission to the official list.

The Exchange, which three months ago completed a review of the market's regulation system, said that the new regulations should stop com-

panies finding loopholes to avoid naming promoters.

A spokesman said: "As soon as you get lawyers into the room, the definition of promoter varies from the very narrow to the very wide. We would rather people went with the letter, rather than the spirit, of the rules."

"We reckoned that £10,000 was a low enough sum to detect advisers, and that making it a year before the float is a long enough period — anyone minded to make a quick turn would not be around for that long. This should allow us to get hold of anybody we want to capture in that way."

The Exchange, of which Gavin Casey is chief executive, has also told the 61 City advisers working with AIM companies to ensure that profit warnings are given more quickly. Nominated advisers have also been told to make sure a company is "appropriate" for the junior exchange before agreeing to supervise flotation.



Gavin Casey has overseen a review of AIM regulations

## Big changes at the top for American chain

### McDonald's shake-up

MCDONALD'S, the hamburger chain, is making large-scale changes to its top management structure in an increasingly desperate effort to jump-start its flagging sales and make it more competitive (Richard Thomson writes).

Jack Greenberg, head of US operations, has sent an internal memo to franchisees and employees saying that the company had to make fundamental changes in its business structure.

The shake-up will be the most significant for McDonald's, which is widely regarded as having had a top heavy management since the early

1950s. The changes include sweeping away the eight zone managers in the US, the company's top executives in America. They will be replaced by a smaller number of national and more autonomous divisions, similar to the way McDonald's is managed in Britain and other overseas markets. The new executives have not yet been chosen, the company said.

The change overturns the 40-year-old centralised management structure based at McDonald's corporate headquarters in Illinois. The new structure is designed to make the company more flexible

and responsive to the market, where McDonald's faces increasing competition from national rivals such as Burger King, owned by Grand Metropolitan, and small regional operators.

In an aggressive \$381 million marketing effort, McDonald's cut the price of hamburgers to 50 cents, which is well below most competitors, but the move has failed to lift sales.

The group's 2000 US franchisees have often complained that the stagnation in sales is partly because the company's centralised management has stifled innovation.

US INVESTMENT banks are scanning the City and West End for new premises and could be employing more than 9,500 extra staff in London (Carl Morishid writes).

Chesterman, the property consultancy, reports that ten US banks are seeking a total of 1.4 million sq ft of new office space, 64 per cent more than they currently occupy.

The ten firms include Goldman Sachs, which is seeking between 150,000 and 300,000 sq ft, and Merrill Lynch, which wants up to 300,000 sq ft. Goldman is tipped to acquire the redevelopment of the former Daily Express building in

Fleet Street, next to Goldman's existing headquarters. But the investment bank is also considering a development on the site of the former Daily Mirror building, Times Square in Queen Victoria Street and Canary Wharf.

Merrill Lynch is said to be interested in the Post Office site in King Edward Street in the City. Other US firms with their eyes on property expansion include CSFB, Andersen Consulting, JP Morgan, Fidelity and DLJ Phoenix.

The dash for new space reflects the continued focus by American banks on London as the hub for their eastward

expansion. Chesterman estimates that the total space requirement of the ten firms is equivalent to some 9,500 extra jobs. Mark Bourne, of Chesterman, suggests that the investment will have serious implications for the City, increasing the demand for scarce skills and driving salaries even higher.

"Most seriously for the UK financial industry, further expansion by American companies will increase the competitive pressures on even the largest UK finance houses, leading possibly to a further shrinking of the home-grown presence in the City."

## Microsoft threatens IBM's core market

MICROSOFT, the software company, is moving into large-scale corporate computing for the first time, escalating the war between it and producers of mainframe and network computers, such as IBM and Oracle. In a significant marketing assault that begins today, Microsoft will start trying to sell networks of personal computers to large corporations which currently use mainframes and Unix software. The PC networks will use Microsoft software, and the initiative has won the backing of large PC manufacturers, such as Hewlett Packard.

The move threatens to take a massive bite out of the businesses of IBM and Oracle, which sell large networks of computers driven by a mainframe and using special networking software. It will therefore extend the intensifying battle between PCs and the supporters of mainframe driven networks, such as Larry Ellison.

## ICAEW backs change

THE Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales has endorsed calls "at the earliest opportunity" for UK limited liability partnerships, but said joint and several liability remains the real cause for concern. The ICAEW, responding to a Department of Trade and Industry consultation paper, gave qualified support to the LLP proposals, which aim to protect accountants and other professionals from punitive lawsuits.

## Channel 4 setback

CHANNEL 4, whose annual report was published yesterday, said that current-year profits will be "substantially lower" than 1996's because of the launch of Channel 5. Channel 4's profits, before tax and payments to the ITV companies, were £134.3 million last year, up 5 per cent. Sir Michael Bishop, chairman, said that revenue in the next few years is unlikely to keep up with inflation as the market becomes increasingly fragmented by new channels. Profit is expected to be "minimal" after 1998.

## Bae awaits approval

BRITISH AEROSPACE expects shareholders in Reflections, the US training systems company, to approve today its £25 million acquisition by the UK defence group. BAE already owns 48 per cent of Reflections, which makes flight simulators, weapons training equipment and maintenance training aids for military and civilian customers, including Airbus. Reflections' business is primarily in the US market, but the company is trying to expand into the UK.

## Royal Blue prospectus

ROYAL BLUE, supplier of City dealing software and general IT support systems, issued its pathfinder prospectus yesterday, prior to listing on the Stock Exchange. It aims to raise £10 million through a placing in June, including £5 million of new money. The flotation should value the company at between £35 million and £40 million. Profit before tax was £2 million (£1 million). Turnover was £11.7 million (£7.2 million).

## Paragon's progress

PARAGON, the financial services group, raised its pre-tax profits 22 per cent, to £10 million, in the six months to March 31. Earnings per share increased from 9.3p to 11.4p. The interim dividend rose from 6p to 7p after payment of a 5p second interim dividend. Silk says: "We are now on the eve of marketing a wider range of products." Market report, page 32

## Council picks Caspian

CASPIAN, the owner of Leeds United Football Club, has been selected by Leeds City Council as the preferred developer of the Leeds Arena in the vacant space next to Elland Road, the home of Leeds United. The complex will seat 13,000 people and will be used for events such as ice hockey, basketball and rock concerts. Caspian is also redeveloping the West Stand of Elland Road, which is also owned by the city council, to increase the ground's capacity to 45,000.

## Confident Silk soars

SHARES in Silk Industries soared from 68 1/2p to 100 1/2p after the textiles group reported an 11.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £263 million and made an upbeat statement on prospects. Sales rose 12.3 per cent to £16.3 million and earnings per share went up 13.9 per cent to 15.6p. The total dividend for the year rose from 6p to 7p after payment of a 5p second interim dividend. Silk says: "We are now on the eve of marketing a wider range of products." Market report, page 32

## RM advances 27%

RM, the software and services supplier, raised pre-tax profits 27 per cent, to £1.68 million, in the half-year to March 31 on sales up 8 per cent, to £49 million. Earnings per share rose 26 per cent to 6.3p. The half-year dividend rises from 1.8p to 2.2p. The shares rose 5p, to 82p. Mike Fischer, chief executive, said: "Despite challenging market conditions, RM achieved good profits growth during the six months and continued to gain new customers in its core schools market."

## Greenway slips back

SHARES in Greenway Holdings, the waste oil recycling company, fell 12 1/2p to 47 1/2p after the company revealed a fall in pre-tax profits from £750,000 to £158,000 for the year to March 31. Sales rose from £11.9 million to £12.9 million, but prolonged weakness in sales to power generators was not resolved until November. The final dividend is to be maintained at 1.5p, making an unchanged total of 2p. Earnings per share fell from 2.58p to 0.87p.

## Broadcaster in talks on set-top boxes

BRITISH Interactive Broadcasting (BIB) confirmed yesterday that it is in talks to provide interactive services to British Digital Broadcasting, the digital terrestrial TV company owned by Carlton, Granada and BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times. BIB, whose owners include British Telecom and BSkyB, would ensure that the set-top boxes to be ordered by British Digital Broadcasting would be fully interactive. BIB said earlier this month that it will provide the same services to BSkyB, which plans to launch its 200-channel digital broadcasting system next spring.

Country	Bank	Share
Australia	2.22	2.05
Austria	20.57	19.03
Canada	2.36	2.19
Cyprus	0.670	0.635
Denmark	11.18	10.35
Finland	0.52	0.52
France	9.88	9.11
Germany	2.84	2.72
Greece	470	427
Hong Kong	18.40	18.27
Ireland	1.27	1.04
Israel	1.12	0.81
Italy	2.65	2.62
Japan	304.80	282.00
Netherlands	0.858	0.802
New Zealand	9.510	9.041
Norway	12.14	11.26
Portugal	246.50	222.00
Spain	6.00	7.00
Sweden	246.50	222.00
Switzerland	2.47	2.27
Turkey	226.16	210.97
USA	1.78	1.81

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to transfer of cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



# Taylor-made for the job



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Securing the services of Martin Taylor would be regarded as a coup by most major businesses in search of a non-executive director, so the new Government is understandably proud of having signed up the youthful Barclays chief executive.

Taylor is a strategic thinker who, when not plotting the future of the textile industry or structure of international banking, has, no doubt, been pondering the inequities and inefficiencies of the country's tax and benefit system.

As he probes more deeply into its workings and inconsistencies, he will surely be tempted to remark that he would not choose to start from here. He can be expected to ask the right questions. At Barclays, he has been known to query what it is that customers might want from the bank, an attitude which has played some part in transforming it from its dire dive into the red before he joined the board to profits of £2.4 billion last year. He has not been squeamish about declaring redundancies en route to that improvement: a fair few former Barclays employees probably count as social security claimants today.

Given the right remit, and commitment from the Government, Taylor could have a real impact on this core area of tax gathering and public expenditure. He is not the sort of chap to take on the task without guarantees that his appointment is more than mere scalp gathering.

Certainly yesterday brought much trumpeting of the Government's enthusiasm for working in partnership with business. Plucking Sir David Simon from BP to become a minister was an impressive move and there are more to follow. Lord Hollick, the chief executive of United News, is to put in a couple of days a week working with Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade.

But there are some business men regarding New Labour's appreciativeness with some scepticism. Alastair Ross Goobey was summarily sacked as head of the Private Finance Initiative Panel after a year of intense effort trying to turn a government brain wave into a workable option. The new minister, Geoffrey Robinson, did not even feel it was worth discussing his ideas with Ross Goobey before giving him his marching orders.

Lord MacLaurin, the retiring Tesco chairman, was similarly left in little doubt that his presence was no longer required as head of the Sports Council. Newly installed minister, Tony Banks, made it clear that the man who had transformed the grocery business and is aiming to work similar miracles with

English cricket, was not the sort of chap he wanted around.

Both Ross Goobey and MacLaurin have one thing in common: their allegiance to the Tory party. Martin Taylor, unlike Sir Iain Vallance, is maintaining silence over the way he cast his vote on polling day. But it would be a shame if New Labour's enthusiasm for a partnership with business was as narrow minded as some might be tempted to conclude.

## Boardroom tried and laboratory-tested

Sir Richard Sykes officially assumed the chairmanship of Glaxo Wellcome at yesterday's annual meeting, braving potential trades from the advocates of boardroom political correctness by combining the role with that of chief executive. But Sir Richard is not alone in assuming the dual status. Sir

Richard Greenbury will today reveal the success that results from his intense grip on the rudder at Marks & Spencer. Company structures need to have the flexibility to make the most of the talents available. Both Sir Richards have an in-depth knowledge of their business coupled with strong vision as to how they wish to develop the organisation. What they need most in their boardrooms is a combination of non-executives who can bring an external perspective to bear, and executives with the courage to occasionally challenge their bosses.

Arbitrarily insisting that the two senior jobs should be split would not improve the workings of either M&S or Glaxo. But while Glaxo shareholders appeared happy with Sykes's promotion, they may not have realised quite how well qualified for the role he is.

As of last week, and his election as a Fellow of the Royal

Society, he is the one chairman of a Footsie company able to boast of such scientific credentials. And just to underline the fact that the chap running one of the world's largest drug companies does know what is going on in the laboratories, he took time last Thursday to deliver a lecture to the Royal College of Physicians. It was entitled "The New Genetics: A Universal Panacea or Pandora's Box", and apparently was understood by the audience if not by financial journalists. Its conclusion, not entirely surprisingly, was that the new genetics are a Good Thing.

They should certainly help Glaxo Wellcome to continue to deliver new products, the life blood of a business which can see its best ideas copied to make other people profits. But while yesterday saw the company having to admit that the strong pound would dent its profits, the tumbling sales of Zantac are no longer considered to be poten-

tially devastating. Instead, there is a raft of new drugs coming on, aimed at coping with everything from migraine to flu.

Sir Richard has made the transfer from laboratory to boardroom painlessly, but the legacy of his early days in a white coat is showing as clearly as Sir Richard Greenbury's time on the shop floor.

## Kalms short circuits the competition

Dixons believes in playing commercial hard ball. The company has never made any secret of the fact that it likes to win in the market place and that is how it should be. But chairman Sir Stanley Kalms became nearly apoplectic when he thought that his electrical stores were facing unfair competition from the regional electricity boards. He shrieked that their retail operations were being subsidised by their core electricity services and called foul.

Now we see a fascinating glimpse of Dixon's own business tactics. The company's efforts to persuade landlords that they should effectively guarantee it exclusive rights to sell a range of

products within a retail park have attracted the attention of the Office of Fair Trading.

It is natural for an organisation to wish to secure for itself the best possible terms when it signs a lease. But it can hardly be said to be in the best interests of consumers for a business to rule out any competition. Dixons will contend that landlords are not forced to agree to such terms. The firm may even try a line about encouraging a decent mix of shops being for the benefit of the public. That somehow sounds about as convincing as a spotty Dixons employee trying to sell a five-year warranty.

It was unclear under the last Government quite what constituted anti-competitive practices and we have yet to learn what the definition may be under this one. But if the OFT looks at Dixon's negotiating tactics with landlords, it may not be very impressed.

## Suspicious minds

SUSPICIONS about the motives of those behind some AIM launches has prompted changes in the listing rules. Now we are to be told the identity of any investor with more than £10,000 at stake in an AIM entrant. The Stock Exchange is becoming more sceptical than the Takeover Panel, with its continued wide-eyed insistence that friends of David Abell might buy shares in Thomas Jourdan just because they believe in the trouser press.

## Greenalls counters slow trade

By ADAM JONES

GREENALLS, the pubs and leisure group, announced a 12 per cent increase in interim profits yesterday, despite subdued trading in its North West of England heartland.

Turnover rose to £554.8 million (£527.6 million) in the six months, producing pre-tax profits of £63.9 million (£57 million) before exceptional items. The figure was in the middle of the range of analysts' predictions. Profit after exceptional items was £57.8 million.

Lord Daresbury, chief executive, said difficult trading conditions in managed pubs in the North West may have been caused by the strong pound hitting the region's manufacturing businesses.

Andrew Thomas, chairman, said satisfactory progress in group results was expected over the full year.

In March, Greenalls announced it was restructuring its pubs division, with 248 managed pubs changing to tenanted status.

The company is continuing this policy of focusing on

capital-intensive city centre venues. Themed sites will be the major recipients of £90 million capital expenditure for pubs this year, rising to £100 million next year.

The total capital expenditure for 1997 will be £175 million. This includes £9 million for leisure and hotel facilities at The Belfry golf course, which hosts the 2001 Ryder Cup. The improvements include an extra five holes on the course. Overall capital expenditure will rise to £200 million in 1998.

Operating profit at De Vere Hotels rose 19.4 per cent to £12.7 million. Occupancy improved marginally to 70 per cent and achieved room rates were 16 per cent higher at £62.

De Vere's three remaining three-star hotels and the four-star De Vere Coventry will be sold. Greenalls franchised pubs and wholesaling business improved operating profit to £24.3 million (£21.6 million). An interim dividend of 6.2p (6.22p) is proposed on July 4.

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## Bowthorpe buys in Hawaii

By OLIVER AUGUST

BOWTHORPE made its biggest acquisition yesterday as part of a strategic review that will put greater emphasis on state-of-the-art telecoms.

The electronic equipment group paid £50 million for Adtech of Hawaii, which is described as a leading manufacturer of test equipment for high-speed automatic teller machine (ATM) technology that can transmit voice, video and computer data simultaneously.

Nick Brookes, Bowthorpe chief executive, said: "ATM is the only technology that can do this. The acquisition will be earnings positive right from the beginning. The sector is growing by 30 to 40 per cent a year."

Adtech's audited net assets last year were \$8.4 million, with pre-tax profits at \$5.2 million. The £50 million cash payment includes a £17 million growth-linked bonus.

Bowthorpe is currently reducing the number of its divisions from 12 to five.

## Daily Mail offers bond buyback

By ERIC REGULY

DAILY MAIL and General Trust, the newspaper group, yesterday offered to buy back the £47.9 million in outstanding bonds that are exchangeable into shares of Reuters.

The Daily Mail would then issue a new series of bonds that are also exchangeable into Reuters shares. The refinancing was partly designed to defer the taxable gain that would have been triggered by the exchange of the old series, which carried a 5 1/2 per cent coupon and were due in 2003. The Daily Mail owns 24 million Reuters shares, of which ten million were set aside for the 5 1/2 per cent exchangeable bonds. The company said that the new bonds will enable Daily Mail to benefit from the future growth of those shares released by the purchase of the 5 1/2 per cent exchangeable bonds.

Reuters shares closed at 663 1/2p, down 9p, valuing the Daily Mail's stake at almost £160 million.

## Chelsea buys agents to take fans on holiday

CHELSEA VILLAGE, owner of Chelsea Football Club, has celebrated the team's FA Cup win by giving the television rights to its Cup Winners' Cup matches to Channel Five and buying two travel agents for £2.3 million (Fraser Nelson writes). The company, which will open a hotel and four restaurants in its grounds in December, plans to use the agencies as the final piece in a marketing plan designed to take supporters overseas for a complete Chelsea holiday.

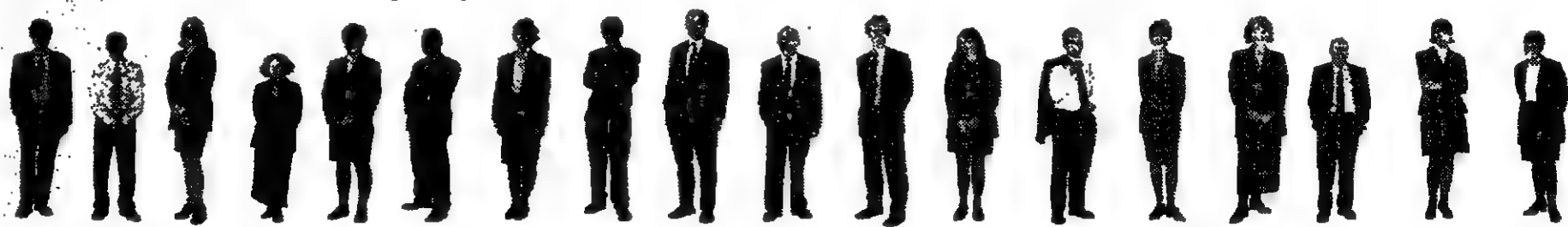
Alan Shaw, company secretary, said: "This fits rather

nice into what we are doing already. We will be able to offer packages to our supporters, including flights."

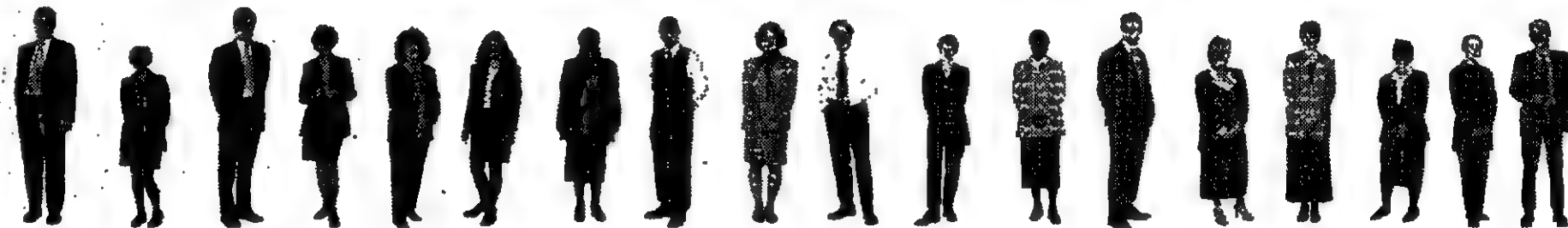
He added that the company also hopes to draw on the patronage of its 250,000 fans, who may wish to book their main holidays through the travel agents, in which it will hold an 80 per cent stake.

The shares fell 10p to 116p, after 402,000 shares were released into the market at 120p on behalf of the Swan Management (formerly Rysaffie) offshore fund, thought to have a 25 per cent stake.

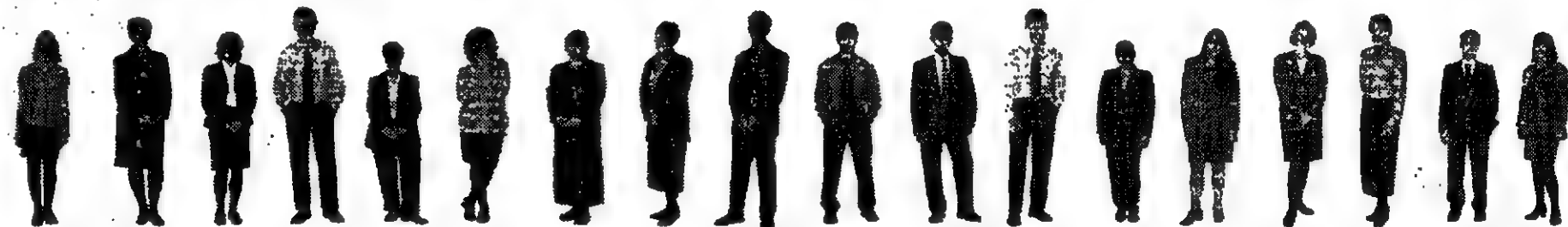
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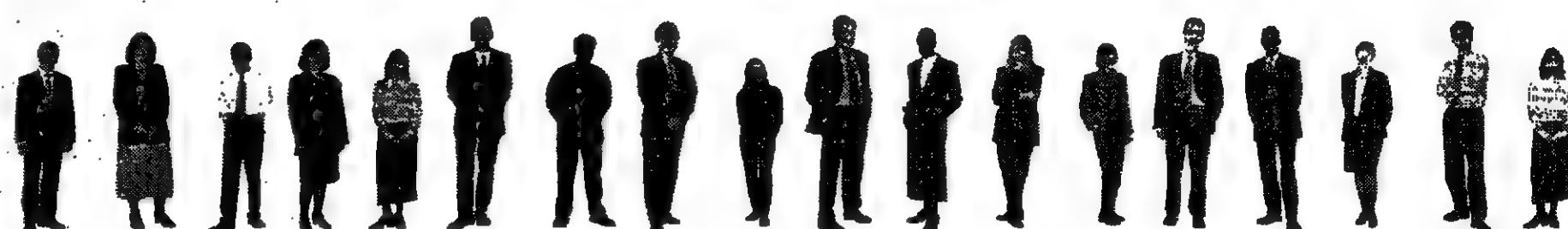
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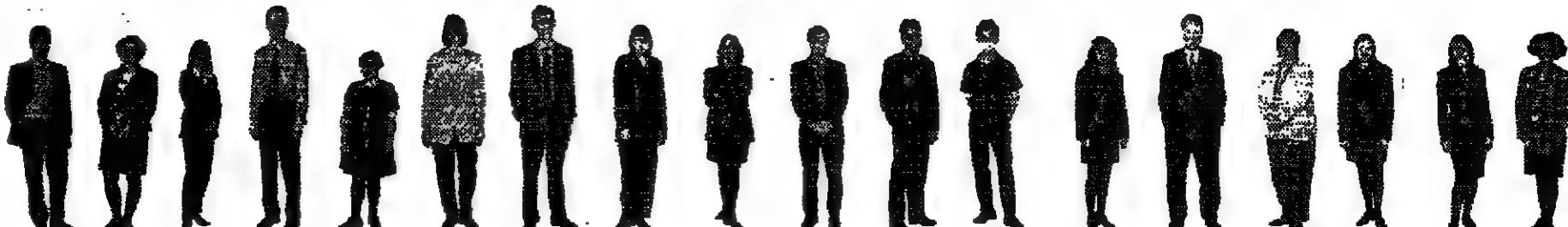
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# Not bad for a first day









# And lo, the guru's word was made fleshy

Martin Waller wonders how the world would manage without so many bibles for businessmen

It is weirdly catching, the jargon and style of business strategy books. To the existing book marketing niches of crime, science fiction, the occult, whatever, there was added a few years ago a new one. Led by Tom Peters, the Stephen King of the genre, there came across the Atlantic a tide of management gurus, consultants, researchers, strategists and lecturers. Each had the Holy Grail of the business man. There were, of course, many number of Grails floating around, which must cast some doubt on their authenticity. How to be a better manager, how to cope with the changing world, and on and on. The books have crept out of specialist bookshops on to the high street, and thence to the airport stalls.

"People like evangelists," explains Cary Cooper, professor of organisational psychology at UMIST in Manchester. "In the US these kinds of books have been around for a long time. Americans are very into simplistic solutions — how you do it in five easy lessons." Hence the success of the One Minute Manager type, a thriving sub-species, for example.

But who buys these guides and who actually reads them? The books divide into four categories, and give some clues:

- How to be a better manager — largely self-help manuals, bought by nervous junior managers, presumably.
  - How to organise your company better/cope with global change/survive the downwave/profit from the upwave — bought by nervous senior managers.
  - How to sell better — for both the above.
  - The weirdies — futurology, information technology and how it will change your world, and a slew of other heterodoxies.
- Recommended: Bruce Tulgan's *Managing Generation X* (Capstone), on how to sell to get a day's work out of the Slackers, those born between 1963 and 1981. Also, *Pandemonium* by Gibson Burrell (Sage Publications), a truly bizarre and sometimes filthy historical account through abattoirs, satyrists and Noel Edmonds' House Party, among other things, towards a theory of organisation. And William Houston's *Through the Whirlwind* (Little

Brown), a look at historical cycles in war, disease and economics. The chapter on disease is particularly good.

The second question is how one goes about writing the more mainstream works. A business degree and attachment to a weighty-sounding (American) foundation are probably essential. Likewise a large typeface for easier reading while travelling. In terms of price, think big: never offer much change from £20.

As to content, there are four abiding principles:

- Prey on your readers' insecurities. Only the *Paranoid Survivor* is one title. "Unless you're prepared, massive changes in the marketplace can erode the company you've built," warns the burb on another. A good gambit is along the lines of "Half of all marketing/infotech/training spending is wasted. This book shows you how to cut it today." Reader response: "Oh God, is it my half?"
- Generalise. Consider this passage, chosen

entirely at random: "The traditional definition of management has focused on control and decision-making activities. But more broadly, management's real mission is to assemble the ingredients needed for organisational success." Word count, 29, information content, virtually zero. Or this student bed-sit-style (circa 1974) offering from the fly-leaf of *The Tao of Sales*: "Like water, be fluid and supple; work in harmony with all things, not in opposition; when it's time for power, be a torrent. When it's time for reflection, a deep pool."

□ Remember that snappy slogan: The 80/20 Principle. The Shadow Pyramid. The Second Curve. The Third Policeman. (Only the first three are real management books.)

And what does the real businessman think? Jonathan Fry, chief executive of Burmah Castrol: "One doesn't want to dismiss the whole lot of management literature as rubbish... what I am very against is this business of fads which sweep through the management world. Currently it's EVA. Economic Value Added, which no one understands but everyone claims to be plugged into. Before, it was TQM. Total Quality Management. I don't read them. I don't read Cosmopolitan either, but I have a view on it."

# Lonrho's usual channels shed little light for shareholders

A deal with JCI would not lack complexity, says Paul Durman

You have to hand it to Lonrho. Whatever its faults, the company remains a compelling attraction to some of the world's most extraordinary businessmen. Mtd. Khumalo looks just the sort of character to follow in the footsteps of the mercurial Tiny Rowland and the mysterious Dieter Bock.

Mr Khumalo spent 12 years as a political prisoner on South Africa's Robben Island, giving him plenty of opportunity to get to know Nelson Mandela. In the post-apartheid era, Mr Khumalo has become one of South Africa's fastest-rising black businessmen. Now the JCI mining group that he controls is seeking a £2 billion merger with Lonrho — a deal that will supposedly resolve one of the thorniest problems facing the UK company.



Lonrho and JCI's mining operations could fit well, but talks between the two groups are still at an early stage

According to a leaked report — and where would Lonrho be without information appearing in other than the normal channels — a Lonrho/JCI deal will allow Anglo American Corporation, the South African mining colossus, to make an elegant cut in its 28 per cent stake in Lonrho. Anglo American, which acquired the bulk of its stake from Mr Bock, is under pressure to sell from the intransigence of the European Commission, which is worried about Anglo exerting undue influence over the world's platinum market. It is suggested that Anglo could swap its stake in Lonrho for Lonrho's shares in Ashanti Goldfields, the prized Ghanaian gold miner.

The proposed deal has some undoubted attractions. JCI's coal interests would be a good fit with Duiker, Lonrho's colliery business. The enlarged company would retain substantial gold interests. And Mr Khumalo could offer Lonrho invaluable help with his political contacts — an area perceived as a growing weakness

since the company ousted Mr Rowland, its founder and driving force for 35 years.

Nick Morrell, who succeeded Mr Bock as chief executive last autumn, came up through the advertising side of *The Observer* and originally caught Mr Rowland's eye with his handling of the sale of the loss-making newspaper to the Guardian Media Group. He then ran Lonrho's UK printing and textiles businesses — virtually unknown outposts of the Lonrho empire. His knowledge of mining is hardly extensive.

The intervention from JCI injects further uncertainty into Lonrho's labyrinthine demerger, which is supposed to be completed this autumn. The sale of the Princess hotels has dragged on for months, to the accompaniment of the usual Lonrho rumour mill.

Even the Rowland camp recognises that JCI could be a clever move. JCI is not so big that it will give rise to the competition concerns that

have hit Anglo and which scuppered Lonrho's platinum merger with Impala, the platinum arm of Genor, the other giant of South African mining.

As ever with Lonrho, the full picture is clouded by a myriad of complexities — not least of which is the minority shareholdings that string Lonrho together with Ashanti, Anglo American and Genor.

For example, it is far from

clear why JCI should want to see Lonrho's 41 per cent stake in Ashanti handed to Anglo. Robinn Kearney, an analyst with Barnard Jacobs Mellet, the South African firm, said JCI has been interested in Lonrho's Duiker coal business for months.

But now a full-blown merger is on the table. "Ashanti would be the most important thing for JCI to get their hands

on", she said. It is the Ashanti issue that leads many to believe that the rumoured deal has Anglo's fingerprints all over it. One observer claims that Anglo is "absolutely obsessed" with gaining control of Ashanti.

Anglo American steadfastly refuses to comment on what role it may have had brokering the talks between JCI and Lonrho. Interestingly, Ken Costa, the SBC Warburg vice-chairman who is advising JCI, has also acted as an adviser to Anglo.

JCI is understood to have initiated the talks taking place in London yesterday, and to have proposed that Lonrho acquire it via an issue of shares. JCI is valued at about £900 million, and Lonrho at about £1.1 billion.

One line being peddled yesterday is that Lonrho would be happy to surrender its interest in Ashanti because it lacks management control and a sale would improve its earnings. Such an analysis looks

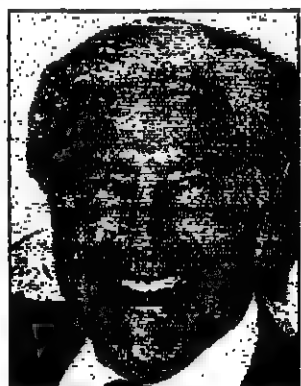
extremely short-sighted. Ashanti produced almost a million ounces of gold last year, but its profits are expected to fall this year and its shares are depressed. Charles Kernot, analyst at Paribas Capital Markets, believes that Ashanti's present market value of about £875 million represents barely half its true worth, which he puts at £1.7 billion. Mr Kernot said Ashanti will shortly start production from two new gold mines, leading to a 40 per cent jump in output by 1999. Accordingly, Mr Kernot believes that Anglo will have to offer Lonrho a substantial amount of cash to tempt it to part with Ashanti.

Even if Lonrho and Anglo were to agree on price, the Ghanaian Government could prove a stumbling block. Ghana was thought to be reluctant to see control of Ashanti and its Obuasi mine pass to Anglo American. Although it is now suggested that this was only an impression fostered by Mr Rowland and his acolytes, Lonrho investors will learn the truth only when there is a firm proposal for consideration.

The difficulties of pricing JCI will be exacerbated by Lonrho's poorly rated paper. Battered by the timing and manner of Mr Bock's sale to Anglo, Lonrho trades at a much greater discount to its assets than does JCI.

Nor are Genor and Impala completely out of the picture. While the South African company is still mounting a legal challenge to the European Commission's right to block the proposed platinum merger, Impala has pre-emption rights that could complicate a Lonrho/JCI merger. Impala, which is 46.5 per cent owned by Genor, owns 27 per cent of Lonrho Platinum and has the first option to buy Lonrho's 73 per cent share in the company.

Lonrho was keen yesterday to emphasise that its talks with JCI are still at a preliminary stage. If it does decide to go ahead, it is hard to believe that it could resolve all the difficulties and still stick to its demerger timetable. It remains hard to say exactly what, in 12 months' time, Lonrho will look like, be called or who will be running it.



Rowland: ousted chief



Morrell: Bock's successor

# Prime time

FAREWELL the NatWest Tower, and a welcome to The International Finance Centre, which is charging some £45 a square foot for the best office space in the City. At that price only the biggest villains will be able to afford it, so expect an immediate influx of lawyers, accountants and the odd financial PR firm. Says David Edmunds, managing director of group central services at NatWest, which continues to own the building: "We're getting back towards the top rental levels of the late 1980s" — a time when

some City firms were prepared to pay as much as £55 a square foot, and we all know what happened next.

But what of the new, rather dull name? The choice was limited — City Tower and Millennium Tower are already taken. "We had a small team of special advisers, people from Weatherall Green & Smith and Richard Ellis, and anybody who could put in an innovative and imaginative solution was invited to throw it in," says Edmunds. And then you threw them out again? "Yes, I did," he replies cheerfully.

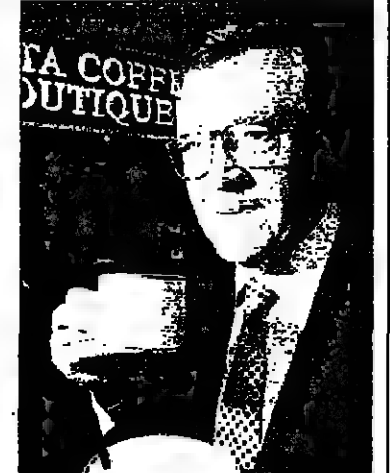


asked. Oh, about 1.63 in the market, they replied. "No, where's Stirling?" "I'm on the wrong train. I'm in Edinburgh." The same runner, on a flight to France not long before, left his travel documents on a food tray, necessitating a hasty search of the aircraft's bins. Chris, have you ever thought of spending more time in the office?

## Fit for a launch

NOW it can be told: A couple of months before the election new Labour was casting around for a room imposing enough to house the internal launch of its official manifesto. The party's media machine was based at Millbank Tower, and a mere 20 storeys above this was the woodlined Vickers boardroom. Perfect, except that Vickers was not keen to be quite so closely associated with all this. Some hurried and temporary redecoration was needed. Easy enough to unscrew the Vickers logo. But coverings had to be hung over the distinctive curved wall, which bears wooden reliefs of the ships the company once built, and a nautical bell, also harking back to its shipbuilding traditions, was removed. I am told that in the publicity shots handed out by Labour the room is just recognisable — if you know what you are looking for.

MARTIN WALLER



Peter Jarvis is widely tipped to head the Low Pay Commission

# Bank needs to clarify its approach to inflation

We will soon have an independent Bank of England charged with controlling inflation. Interest rates will be set by a panel of experts rather than the Chancellor. What sort of performance can we expect and how will we know whether the Bank is doing its job? Mr Brown has said he will use the inflation target adopted by the Conservative Government. But this took two different forms. The Government talked of a target of 2.5 per cent or less, but much of its behaviour suggested that 2.5 per cent a year was a target and not an upper limit. These two have different implications because there is a large unpredictable component in any economy. If the Bank aims for 2.5 per cent a year, it will find that inflation is sometimes higher and sometimes lower than its target. An inflation rate of 3 per cent a year now and then would not mean that the Bank had failed. It could simply mean that it had aimed at 2.5 per cent and been blown off course by events that no one could have foreseen.

To aim for 2.5 per cent or less is quite different. Most people would say this target means that inflation should not rise above 2.5 per cent, or only infrequently. If the Bank's target is in this form, the prudent thing is to aim for a much lower figure, say 1.5 per cent, allowing a margin for error.

Having sorted this out, how should the policy actually function? At present, the target is always for the inflation rate in two years' time, because it is difficult to influence inflation less far ahead than that. One difficulty of this approach is that forecasts are bound to vary. Moreover, there is the risk that the panel may place too much weight on current trends as a guide to the future and ignore the impact of policy changes that have already been made. This in turn could mean that excessive interest rate changes are made so that, far from stabilising the economy, interest-rate policy becomes destabilising.

An alternative system, or at least a starting point, would be to derive a rule for setting the interest rate taking into account the current state of the economy. For example, it might be sensible to raise the interest rate by 1½ to 2 percentage points for each percentage point increase in the actual rate of inflation.

A study by the International Monetary Fund suggests that the variability of inflation can be reduced if interest rates are set with reference not only to current inflation, but also in the light of expected future inflation, on the assumption that the best forecast available is used. And this is the difficulty. Whatever the forecasting skills brought to the panel, there is a real risk that the benefits gained by correct anticipation of future trends may be more than offset by the disruption caused when the committee is mistaken.

At least this makes the next step clear. In the interests of open government, the Bank should publish details of the sort of variability it expects in the inflation rate with various policy structures and rules, including the benefits it expects to gain from using judgment. If nothing else, it will give us a standard for assessing the performance of the new arrangements.

ANDREW BLAKE AND MARTIN WEALE  
Andrew Blake is a Research Fellow and Martin Weale is Director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

# UP YOUR INTEREST RATE

property n. Brit. 1 leaf tea served from a silver pot (usu. Earl Grey, English Breakfast etc.) 2 something owned: a possession, esp. real estate.

leasehold n. & adj. 1 judo grip in which an opponent is partly restrained (half lease) or completely restrained (full lease) 2 the holding of property.

tenants n. 1 mythical insects reputed to have the strength of several men 2 a gathering of your uncles' wives (best avoided) 3 persons holding real property by private ownership.

key money n. 1 the cost of harbouring one's yacht 2 expenses incurred in changing locks (usu. after burglary) 3 premium paid by an incoming tenant for premises.

estate n. 1 large four wheeled container for children, dogs, green wellies etc (usu. Volvo, Merc etc) 2 person's collective assets and liabilities 3 landed property.

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"Champagne? I'm afraid all the cabin crew have drunk it, sir"

THE sometimes autocratic head of Chrysalis Group was determined when he faced the City with his interim figures on Friday that analysts would be properly impressed with the Gold Sony Award just won by Heart 106.2, his London radio station. So Chris Wright's chauffeur Annie was sent back to west London to pick the thing up. She arrived back distraught, clutching a trophy now in three constituent pieces. In her hurry she had dropped it. I am assured she is still allowed near his new Bentley.

## Way out West

THE joint venture to run an automated private client dealing service be-

tween Kleinwort Benson and Winterflood Securities, owned by Close Brothers, is not the first venture between the families Benson and Close. In 1875 the Closes bought 3,000 acres of prairie in Iowa at the knockdown price of \$3.50 an acre because its original inhabitants, some Native American Indians and a few million swarming grasshoppers, still felt they had a use for it. The Bensons provided some capital and Close, Benson & Co was set up. By the time the partnership was dissolved, in 1884, it had 270,000 acres of land under management.

CHRIS TURNER, a derivatives salesman at SBC Warburg and in the running for most accident-prone man in the City, was on a trip to Scotland last week. He rang into his office in a bit of a state. "Where's sterling?" he







هكذا في الأصل

# Equities close sharply lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						
100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	10.00	10.00
BANKS						
100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	10.00	10.00
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.						
100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	10.00	10.00
BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION						
100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	10.00	10.00
ELECTRICITY						
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ELECTRONIC & ELECT.						
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ENGINEERING						
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FOOD MANUFACTURERS						
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HOUSEHOLD GOODS						
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INSURANCE						
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INVESTMENT TRUSTS						
100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	10.00	10.00
LEISURE & HOTELS						
100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	10.00	10.00
MINING						
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MID-CAP						
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OIL & GAS						
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OTHER FINANCIAL						
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RETAILERS, GENERAL						
100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	10.00	10.00
WATER						
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DISTRIBUTORS						
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DISTRIBUTORS						
100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	10.00	10.00

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100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	10.00	10.00
BANKS						
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OIL & GAS						
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## ■ OPERA

Musical values triumph as Glyndebourne's season opens with Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*



## ■ MUSIC 1

Two nights of Philip Glass at the Festival Hall make for delicious punters and sad critics

## THE TIMES ARTS



## ■ MUSIC 2

Schubert at the double: Building a Library surveys recordings of the Piano Duets



## ■ JAZZ

At the Barbican the exuberant Carla Bley makes the most of a distinguished line-up of soloists

OPERA: John Eliot Gardiner's South Downs debut makes Rodney Milnes long for an entire Puccini cycle from him

# Tough and tender players

The strengths of Puccini's early opera (1893) — his third, predating *La Bohème* — are almost entirely musical, and so are those of Glyndebourne's new production. Everything that John Eliot Gardiner promised in his interview on this page last week he delivered. The coruscating brilliance of sound in the opening bars promised an evening of rare orchestral pleasure: crisp, disciplined textures through which every strand of musical thought emerged, and playing of rare, communal virtuosity from the London Philharmonic Orchestra that took your breath away.

## Manon Lescaut Glyndebourne

relish to the full the wide range of colour in the instrumentation: with trumpets yapping away under Geronte in the second-act finale, we were suddenly in the world of Kurt Weill. In a word, Gardiner's reading was an ear-opener: the prospect of him leading a Puccini cycle at Glyndebourne may be far-fetched, but it would certainly have me booking season tickets.

The opera's dramaturgy is decidedly wonky — up to a dozen hands were involved in the anonymous libretto — mainly because all concerned were anxious to avoid being accused of copying Massenet's earlier setting of Prévost's story. The suppression of the scene showing the lovers living in blissful sin means that the Manon of Puccini's second act is a different character from the one we meet in the first: thereafter she is a standard Puccini victim figure. There's not a lot a director can do to put flesh on these bones.

Indeed, there are few surprises in the production by the Graham Vick/Richard Hudson team: elegant naturalistic direction of singers in beautifully designed (and made) traditional costumes against spare, abstract sets, with ochre replacing the grey-blue of their *Oregin*. Tradition loomed a

little too large in the assembly of freaks and decadents in Manon's salon, and in the roll-call of "fallen" women: surely some degree of contemporary perspective could be brought to each episode? And is Hudson's antiseptic decor quite right for Puccini's veristic vigettes? Or for the squalor of the subject matter? Never mind, it's all terribly pretty.

The young Romanian soprano Adina Năntescu sings Manon extremely beautifully — her voice is luscious and warm throughout the range — but she is as yet impetuous on stage and her heroine remained a somewhat shadowy figure. Traditionally, a heavier tenor than Patrick Dennison is cast as Des Grieux. His tone is bronzed rather than brilliant, but he sings musically and accurately, and Gardiner's canny accompaniment of his big third-act outburst helped to make it work. He is also a good actor, making the man entirely credible.

Antonello Palombi was a ringingly Italianate student Edmondo, one who could well have his sights on Des Grieux before long, and Paolo Montarsolo made a memorable Geronte, plainly too old to cut the mustard any more — which must be why everyone entering the boudoir makes a point of inspecting the bed-linen. The chorus was quite marvellous. Channel 4 and Radio 3 simultaneously broadcast the production on May 31.



In luscious voice: young Romanian soprano Adina Năntescu brought beautiful singing to the role of Manon, but an impressive stage presence

CONCERTS: Maximum Minimalism poses questions on the South Bank; a host of Catherines in Baroque mood

Philip Glass likes his *paraggio* figures. He likes them so much that they dominate his entire output. He is not alone in this but, unlike Steve Reich, his tonality is also increasingly traditional, uncharacterised. So what are we left with? Not Minimalism now, apparently, but Maximalism. Making the most of minimal material? Or spinning out music of minimal interest for maximum time?

Another definition has been "systems music", a better word for what the dedicated members of the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields were locked into on Thursday night. Systems music is surely better played by machines, as the following night's line-up with the Philip Glass Ensemble proved — or at least less painful to watch.

Both works on Thursday, Act II from *Satagraha* and the *Heroes Symphony*, were written to be staged and needed that extra dimension. The enthusiasm of the Crucifix Hill Chorus kept the attention through swaths of music on which all Glass's experience of

## Out of his system

Philip Glass Festival Hall

Indian and African music and his rich intellectual life seem to have left no trace.

The *Heroes Symphony* like the *Low*, was inspired by the David Bowie-Brian Eno album of the same name but seems to have neutralised the elements that gave it guts: it is raw energy, the rasping voice of Bowie, a sense of defiant despair. It was known as an avant-garde album, and it was in the pop world. What Glass has created is synthetic, well meaning and uses the blandest of harmonies and orchestrations. The rousing pop anthem *Heroes* is enas-

lated to a series of polite descending chords; the synopses in *Sons of the Silent Age* are rendered awkwardly on French horns. The following night in *The Upper Room*, *The Photographer*, *Music in Similar Motion* passed by in similar motion indeed.

The high points were, not surprisingly, from Glass's two most successful operas, *Einstein on the Beach* and *Akhnaten*. The combination of fast-driven machine sound and the very human voice of a free tenor saxophone solo in *The Building* (from *Einstein*) gave this music a fundamental raison d'être hard to find in the other pieces. The Funeral Music from *Akhnaten*, too, is invigorating: lively drum rhythms, crashing dissonant chords in the bass, a tonality of its own, a real sense of ritual theatre rising to an exhilarating climax. The audience gave standing ovations on both nights: anyone thinking of staging *Akhnaten* again in this country could be sure of a sell-out.

HELEN WALLACE

Far from being any form of torture, the Catherine Wheel which spun round at the Wigmore on Friday was a source of delight. If it had ever occurred to you that the Baroque music world was peopled with Catherines, then this was the vindication. No fewer than 16 of them assembled to present an enriching programme in aid of Jessie's Fund, an admirable charity that exists to help sick children through the therapeutic use of music.

Violinist Catherine Mackintosh led the way: with most of the others on stage, and Katharina Spreckelsen and Catherine Latham playing oboes, she gave bright, shapely direction to lively string playing which took positive pleasure in Handel's mercurial switches before forming an effortlessly oscillating undertone of slow-moving harmonies for the large oboe aria. Felix Warnock may have been a nominal spoke in the wheel, but his elegant bassoon playing made him considerably more than the evening's token male.

## What Katy did

The Catherine Wheel Wigmore Hall

Then came two short Trios, one of them called *La Catarina* by the Cranon-born composer Tarquinio Merulo. Capricious little phrases chased each other from one violin (Catherine Martin) to another (Kati Debetzen). Katharina May, the evening's feisty and urbane harpsichordist, and Catherine Finnis, cello, then took the lead in a *Ciaccona* whose ground bass is teasingly familiar from Monteverdi's madrigal, *Zefiro, torna*. Telemann and Biber faced

each other across the interval — and in two rare and beguiling pairings of instruments. Telemann's *Concerto in E minor* is poised on a pivot-point in woodwind history: the new *flauto traverso* (flute, Katy Birchler) and the older *flauto dolce* (recorder, Catherine Latham) duet together in supple sequences and in a lip-kicking finale. The equally seductive voices of two violas d'amore (Catherine Mackintosh and Katharine McGillivray) are exploited with cunning and imagination in Biber's *Partita No 7*, with its French suite of movements and final noble set of variations.

Every Catherine, Kathryn, Kate and Katharina gathered, once again for a final epiphany, Bach's Wedding Cantata, *Weichet nur, betrübte Schatten*. Soprano Catherine Bott blew the shadows and frosty winds away; harpsichord provided her with Phoebe's swift steeds; and solo violin, oboe and bassoon led on the final dance.

HILARY FINCH

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

## SCHUBERT PIANO DUETS

Reviewed by Stephen Plaistow

NO WONDER Schubert has been called the patron saint of piano duetists. In the last ten years of his life he enriched the medium with a range of compositions, from dances to the Grand Duo in C. Accounts of the social gatherings in which he shared these works among friends may have reinforced impressions of them as minor, but they are characteristic manifestations of genius.

The compositions for four hands from 1828 are unsurpassed by anything he composed in that productive final year. Among them, the Fantasy in F minor (D940) has had plenty of recordings but few get beyond a generalised projection of atmosphere. Its drama and expressive charge call for a wide range of sound and gesture, and the most successful recordings tend to be those by ad hoc partnerships of fine solo pianists, rather than devoted practitioners of duets working on a more domestic scale. The 1984 Sony recording by Murray Perahia and Radu Lupu is a classic.

Recently Lupu has partnered Daniel Barenboim in the Grand Duo and the delightful Variations in A flat.

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forbes, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): A Handel opera survey



(Teldec). The finale of the Duo isn't easy enough but the excellent playing elsewhere banishes thoughts of the work as a symphony in disguise.

For a complete set of the duets a recommendation would be Yvonne Tal and Andreas Groethuysen, who offer seven CDs in a format of four volumes available separately (Sony). For a nearly complete tally of the duets from 1824 on, distributed over two double-albums, there is perhaps better value for money from Christoph Eschenbach and Justus Frantz whose refinement of sound and character are blessings in a medium which can be noisy. They play the works of Schubert's last year as they should be: as the greatest chamber music. The recordings are reissues and are available from next month (EMI CZS 5 69764-2 and CZS 5 69770-2, £15.99 each).

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# Carmen

Bizet

IN THE "hymn sheet" that accompanies her latest recording, *The Carla Bley Big Band Goes to Church*, the Californian composer asks wryly: "Why would anyone want to listen to almost 70 minutes of blaring big-band music?" Then she answers her own question: "Probably because I was able to get my four special soloists again. And my rhythm section. The music would be nothing without these two intact elements."

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JAZZ

Carla Bley Barbican Hall

tour, along with three of those essential soloists — Italian trumpeter Gary Valente, Austrian alto player Wolfgang Puschnig and British tenorist Andy Sheppard — Bley drew on the extraordinary strength in depth of her existing brass section to substitute Guy Barker for the original incumbent — less auspiciously — was the question as to the validity of her final statement.

Devoting the first half of her concert largely to what she calls "fancy chamber music" inevitably focused attention purely on Bley's compositional acumen, and the lightweight, drifting quality of her writing for members of the classical ensemble Opus 20 rendered her big band's arrival in the second half particularly welcome.

As soon as Sheppard's tenor began to wrestle with the inviting changes of *Setting Calvin's Waltz*, the proceedings picked up, and seldom flagged thereafter. Sheppard is the chief vehicle for the urgently bustling aspects of Bley's music, and Puschnig's wounded alto sound, too, was tellingly exploited by Bley, particularly in Carl Ruggles's *Exaltation*.

It was the brass players Barker and Valente, however, who hit the evening's keynote. Along with just the right amount of exuberant flair,

Barker brought poise and elegance to his blazing solos. Valente, though, truly personified Bley's distinctive brand of laid-back, earnestly pookish eccentricity with an extraordinary display of rich, sand-blasting trombone. Bley's art may indeed reside in the skilful deployment of her musicians rather than in the material she gives them.

CHRIS PARKER

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Sunday 1 June

Ravel: *Mother Goose Ballet*, *Tzigane*, *Daphnis and Chloé Suites Nos 1 & 2*, *Eunice*, *Le violon*

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■ VISUAL ART 1

**The Swinging Sixties in Britain and France are recalled at the Brighton Festival**



■ VISUAL ART 2

**Out of the ordinary: a posthumous show for Jeff Luke finds excitement in the everyday**



■ DANCE

**Urban stress is the motor that powers Siobhan Davies's impressive new work, Bank**



■ THEATRE

**The Rodney Ackland revival continues with a Chichester staging of his After October**

THE TIMES  
ARTS

**VISUAL ART: Richard Cork takes a cool look at the Sixties through the psychedelic haze of a south coast exhibition**

# Swinging back the pendulum

For a generation of art students, the Swinging Sixties in Britain and France are recalled at the Brighton Festival. The year is 1965, and both of them are enjoying their new-found celebrity. Deneuve leans towards Bailey, smiling as she relishes their very own entente cordiale. But he directs his large eyes outwards, appraising the photographer with a watchful, professional gaze.

Bailey's expression sums up the supreme self-consciousness of the period, when everyone appeared to do everything in front of a camera. He knew the defining power of the lens, and its effervescent images play a central role throughout the *Les Sixties* exhibition at Brighton Museum and Art Gallery. But Deneuve's cool presence reminds us that France underwent a similar revolution. In our current curiosity about swinging London seems insatiable, we often overlook the upheavals that galvanised Paris during the same seismic period.

How can this restless, noisy and anarchic era be conveyed in three rooms of a seate, 19th-century municipal building, where even the most unruly manifestations of the counter-culture have been carefully preserved, classified and placed on orderly display? Strict curatorial standards are upheld here, above all in the notice next to Peter Sedgley's whirling, kinetic disc sculpture. "The ultra-violet lights on this work have been switched off," it explains, "to prevent fading of other art works in this gallery."

Despite inevitable restrictions, though, *Les Sixties* does succeed in taking the pulse of its feverish subject. The organisers, David Alan Mellor and Laurent Gervereau, take an all-embracing view. Paintings and sculpture are included, often making a powerful contribution to the show. But *Les Sixties* aims at placing works of art in the wider, possible social context.

"Consumer Culture" is the opening theme. It moves from the tourist banality of a 1962 "ICI Londres" window display at Bon Marché in Paris to the austere geometry of a cream wool dress by Courrèges. Allen Jones's trashy Pop art is included; but so are Joe O'Reilly's photographs of Peter Blake, David Hockney and their contemporaries posing like statues on plinths outside their exhibition at the 1963 Paris Biennale.

Playfulness abounds, in the silliness of Bernard Rancillac's outrageous *Elephant Armchair* and the cleverness of Clive Barker's witty simulated French Fancies in painted bronze. But the darker side of the Sixties soon becomes visible as well. J.G. Ballard's eight black-and-white photographs of a crashed Ford Zephyr look ominous, even if its shattered windscreen reveals no trace of the obsessed couple erotically aroused by car crashes in his related fiction.

Violence dominates the second section, where a dozen stills from Antonioni's *Blow Up* concentrate on the most sinister part of the film. Successive frames show the young Vanessa Redgrave luring a middle-

**Women were often treated with arrogance and contempt in the cold camera studios**

aged man into a deserted park, embracing him and then moving away as a gun emerges from the bushes.

The Sixties' blatant preoccupation with sex dominates the space devoted to "A Man's World". Ralph Steadman turns one of his lascivious New London Cries into a callous fashion photographer, with phallic zoom-lenses bulging from his crotch. Without bothering to look at the mascara-smeared model picking her nose behind him, he snarls: "I said I'm going to put your face in Vogue, you stupid old cow!"

Women were often treated with arrogance and contempt in the cold, white, camera-packed studios of the period. Even a goddess as exalted as Bardot appears with a target-like circle stamped on her screen-dot face in Gerald Laing's sinister painting. Christine Keeler found herself adored and deplored, usually at the same time. In Geoffrey Davien's plaster bust, ominously nicknamed a "sculptoon", she looks at once mesmerising and demonic.

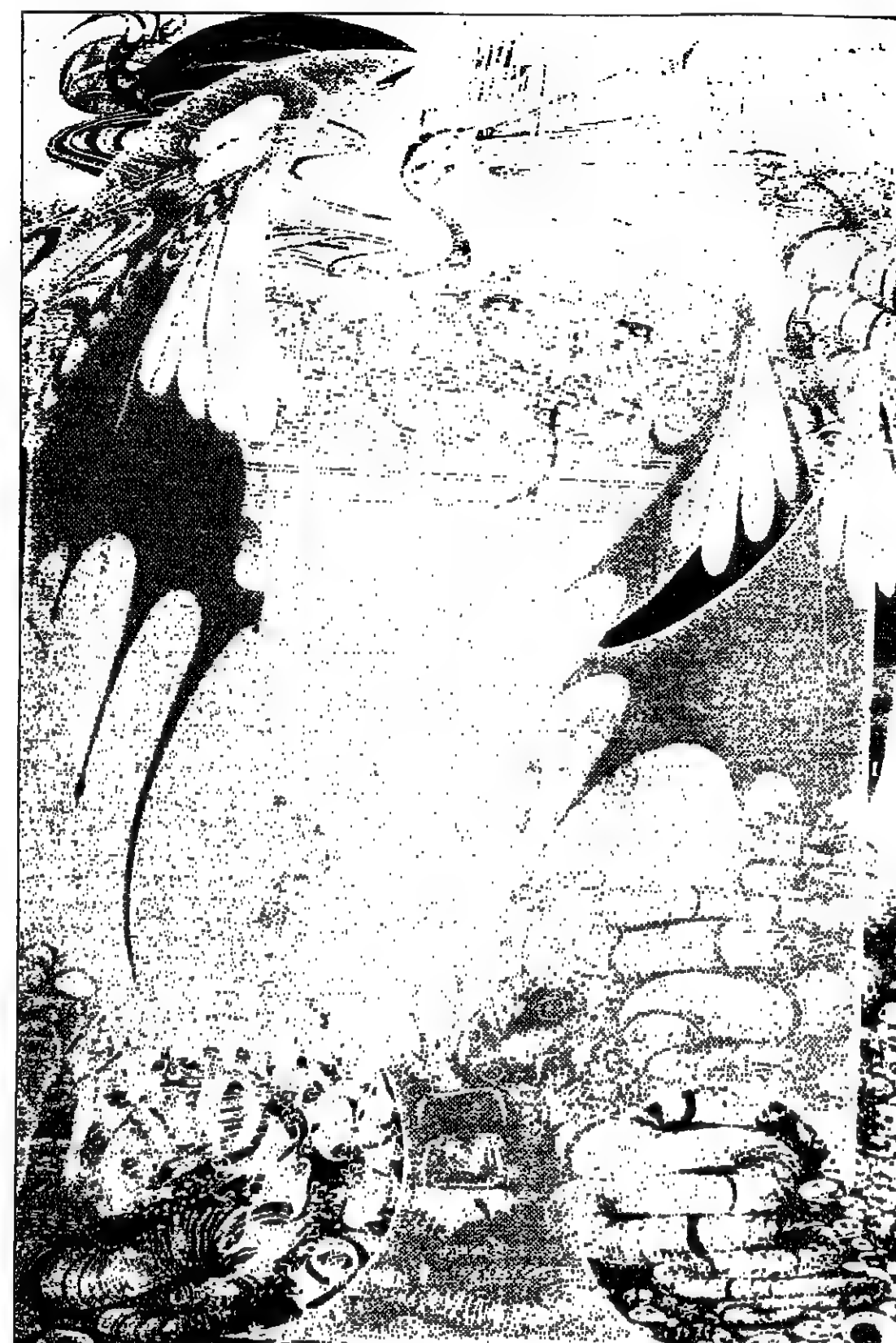
The few women artists who won prominence did their best to offer an alternative view. Jann Haworth's

brazen mixed-media sculpture of a *Snake Lady* looks ferocious, as the serpent coils its way round her ample feathered body. But she seems trapped as well, and a similar ambiguity runs through Pauline Boyer's work. Tragically short-lived, she knew precisely how to pose like an archetypal Sixties "chick" for Michael Ward's photograph.

Sometimes the Anglo-French vantage of the show yields unexpected results. Among the over-familiar Beatlemania ephemera, we suddenly find a poster advertising the group's first feature film under the bizarre title *4 Garçons Dans Le Vent*. At the time, the Fab Four were photographed as harmlessly chuckling Liverpudlian lads. But on occasion the boyish masks slip. Robert Whitaker's 1966 album cover dressed the group as white-coated butchers, brandishing headless dolls and cradling raw meat as they grin mirthlessly. The images caused such offence in America that they were withdrawn and, for the most part, destroyed. But Martin Sharp neatly caught the group's ambivalent attitude in a painted photograph, where Lennon's face is transformed into a Union Jack. What initially looks like cherry patriotism ends up resembling a gag, preventing him from voicing the full extent of his dissent.

The French were inclined to a more agit-prop approach. Erro's 1968 painting, *Intérieur Américain* no. 4, shows square-jawed freedom fighters in scarlet uniforms advancing on an empty, bijou bedroom. The Reds popped up everywhere as the decade came to a close. At the 1969 Salon de la Jeune Peinture in Paris, attention was seized by the incensed artists who produced *La Salle Rouge pour le Vietnam*. But the most exuberant use of this politically charged colour occurs in Henri Cueco's *L'Université*, a 1968 canvas where striped and naked students punch the air or make gravity-defying leaps in front of an impersonal, authoritarian campus building.

It seems strident compared with the gentler, more amateur flower-power images produced in London, when Hornsey School of Art was transformed into a crucible of rebellion in the very same year. "Education Not Intimidation" and "Tomorrow Starts Now" were the slogans they proclaimed, but the



Homage to weird pop: *The Crazy World of Arthur Brown* by Michael English and Nigel Weymouth

ever more disastrous war in Vietnam provided a sharper focus for anger on both sides of the Channel. In London, Lewis Morley took a campaigning shot of Tariq Ali and Vanessa Redgrave united in their condemnation of the conflict. But they look too aware of their photographic status as banner-brandishing

stars when set beside an anonymous French poster. Produced in Paris at the very zenith of revolutionary Gallic zeal, it offers an aerial view of the Champs Elysees burning with demonstrators on the march. From one end to the other, the entire avenue is dense with resolute, unstoppable bodies. Their enthusi-

asm may seem naively utopian today, when ideological fervour has given way to widespread scepticism. But their mass determination to have faith in the future still seems moving, and makes our own lack of optimism all the more sad.

● *Les Sixties* is at Brighton Museum and Art Gallery (01273 240400) until June 29

**AROUND THE GALLERIES**

MELISSA FELDMAN, the curator of *Natural Habitat*, has provided a generous brief and a floor each to three artists from abroad. Patrick Van Caekenbergh plays between flat and formed, cut out and actual, to make menageries of strangeness. It is an atmosphere to be read rather than felt, a room that turns out to have no real three-dimensional meaning. Upstairs Paul McCarthy seems to insist on visitors dressing themselves up as clowns in the wooden changing space provided. Upstairs again, enticing mermaid music calls. The enchantress, the artist Mariako Mori dressed in a blue space outfit, plays with a crystal ball in an airport concourse. In this repeated video footage she beckons with elfin silliness. *Natural Habitat*, *The Tannery*, 57 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 (0171-234 0587), until June 1

□ PHOTOGRAPHS of dark green translucent material floating against a red ground, like details from a Renaissance Venetian painting, are collaged together to make up a rich mosaic. Liz Ridelal may now scale up her individual pictures — yet they are all taken, as usual, in a simple photo booth. At the *Economist* offices, she pins her larger format *Arras* series simply to the wall in the highly-charged entrance area, but it is still difficult to show work here.

Past the information desk, through the revolving door outside, Julian Opie has stacked a number of simple casts of tombstones, effectively causing a moment of displacement: a visual missed beat. Liz Ridelal and Julian Opie at the *Economist*, organised by the Contemporary Art Society, The Economist, 25 St James's Street, London SW1 (0171-830 7105), until June 22

□ JEFF LUKE, who died in 1995 aged only 33, must have spent a lot of time on a kind of conceptual autopilot. This exhibition brings together many examples of his work. It is all dependent on display. Along a wall are 800 plastic bags, each containing a strange, apparently useful element.

Some 300 phials, each holding a fluid from kitchen, garage or bathroom, make a rainbow range across a shelf. Handles, levers, sticks, racks and tubes, this time much larger in scale, cover the floor. Each piece has been assembled in the mock language of the jeweller, handyman or shop fitter. The gap between the art object and its function is well expressed.

Jeff Luke, Cubitt Gallery, 2 Caledonia Street, London N1 (0171-278 8326), until June 8

SACHA CRADDOCK

■ DANCE

SIOBHAN DAVIES, winner of the 1996 Olivier and Prudential Awards, is celebrating a milestone this season: 25 years in the choreography business. But if anyone expects her to relax and rest on her laurels, forget it. There is nothing complacent about *Bank*, the piece she has made for this anniversary season.

With the aid of Matteo Fargion's echoing percussive score for bass guitar, harmonica, drum and cardboard boxes, Davies constructs a world where the press of society breeds apprehension and a dark irritability. The six dancers are charged with a pent-up energy that is only partially relieved by the fractured phrases of hurried physicality. Even moments of rest are deceptive, for underneath the stillness throbs the itch to move.

One of the beauties of Davies's intensely private creative process is the freedom it gives her audiences to paint their own mental landscapes. As the bodies move through space with the force of a slap,

## Private painted pictures

Siobhan Davies  
Gardner Arts Centre

you can imagine a kind of urban stress rising from the crowding discomfort of their overpopulated environment. The patterns of *Bank* may be complex, but the immediacy of its language is readily discernible.

Despite the creative wealth of her back catalogue, Davies is not one for revisiting old territory. There has to be a good reason to revive a work and in the case of *White Man Sleeps*, the other half of her Brighton Festival double bill, the spur was the score.

When Davies choreo-

graphed *White Man Sleeps* in 1988, she used Kevin Volans's string quartet of the same name. Nine years later, she has turned to the composer's earlier arrangement of *White Man Sleeps*, scored for two harpsichords, viola da gamba and percussion. It is more abrasive and pungent than the string arrangement, and it gives Davies's choreography even more heft and heart.

She has reworked segments of her original, although the bulk of it remains unchanged. Unlike the more unsettling *Bank*, *White Man Sleeps* seduces its audience with an impulsive sensuality. There is a hedonistic delight in the physicality of Davies's strong-minded dancers, as if they are plunging into a pool of warm, sweetly scented water. It looks a pleasure to dance; it's certainly a pleasure to watch.

The Siobhan Davies Company is at the Arts Theatre, Cambridge, on May 30 and 31, and at the Crucible in Sheffield on June 3 and 4.

DEBRA CRAINE

## Warming to a tangy family stew

THEATRE

After October  
Minerva, Chichester

a dramatist with an eye for the clutter and chaos of English Bohemianism.

At first you may feel the piece is Chekhovian in the wrong sense. There is a lack of tension and momentum as a not-too-trenchantly observed family and its hangers-on drift about a big, shambling flat in what seems to be Hampstead, 1936. While Nick Waring's Clive struggles in the corner to finish writing the West End play that will save the clan from the bailiffs, Dorothy Tutin's Rhoda, his retired-actress mother, absently vacuums the frayed carpet. Bring on his two sisters, one trailing her adulterous employer, the other the French husband she acquired while working as a hostess in a bar; add the depressive girl Clive loves and

the megalomaniac poet he has encouraged; and you have the kind of tangy human stew Ackland enjoyed.

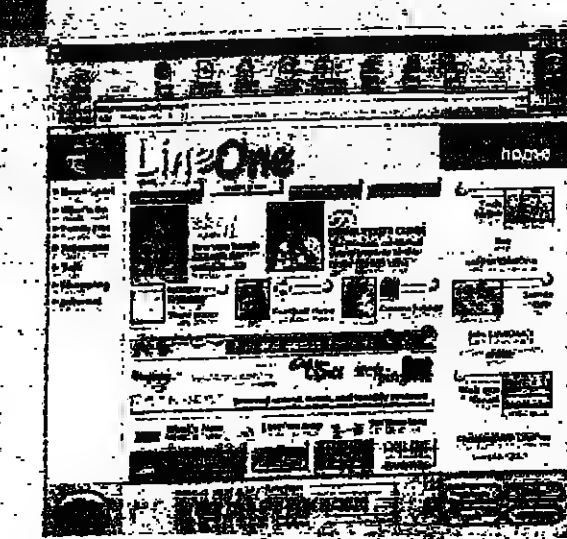
The stew gradually warmed up on the first night, so that I suddenly realised that a cast that had been leaving me cold was giving me genuine pleasure. Some of the characters could be more thoroughly explored. Moreover, the play's shape is a bit predictable.

Yet Clive's disappointment at the poor reviews of his big first night leads to surprises, including a hilarious scene in which he phones a London critic at dawn, screams that he is a bleary moron about to die of leprosy; and then finds he has the wrong number. Keith Baxter's fine production, with Tutin muddleheadedly exuding the spirit of never-say-die, leaves you feeling that this slovenly, troubled, affectionate crew will somehow blunder and bumble through. Ackland was only 28 when he wrote the play, but had already found his voice; and if you miss that voice at Chichester, you can and should catch it at Greenwich next month.

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SACHA CRADDOCK

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## CHOICE 1

**Pinchas Zukerman conducts and plays music by the Bach family**

VENUE: Tonight at the Barbican Centre, London



## CHOICE 2

**Maurizio Pollini continues his survey of the Beethoven piano sonatas**

VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Hall, London

## THE TIMES ARTS



## CHOICE 3

**Skylight, by David Hare, is brought to Coventry by the National Theatre**

VENUE: From tonight at the Warwick Arts Centre



## POP

**Country man: Garth Brooks gives Dublin the only European concert on his current tour**

## LONDON

**ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** Pinchas Zukerman conducts the ECHO in music by J.S. Bach: Brandenburg No. 1, Violin Concerto and Concerto for Violin and Piano. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**MAURIZIO POLLINI** The virtuoso continues his survey of the Beethoven piano sonatas. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**TITUS ANDRONICUS** Following his production of Les Misérables, Simon Phillips presents a new production of Shakespeare's tragedy. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**ELISABETH** (from Exchange, 1997) The story of a woman who finds her true self in a world of men. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**THE HERALD** (from Exchange, 1997) The story of a woman who finds her true self in a world of men. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**THE HOME** (from Exchange, 1997) The story of a woman who finds her true self in a world of men. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN** (from Exchange, 1997) The story of a woman who finds her true self in a world of men. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**THE MAI** (from Exchange, 1997) The story of a woman who finds her true self in a world of men. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**NEW RELEASES** **DANGEROUS GROUND** (1997) The story of a woman who finds her true self in a world of men. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**OLIVER!** (1997) The story of a woman who finds her true self in a world of men. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**LA PASSION** (1997) The story of a woman who finds her true self in a world of men. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

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## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

**BUXTON** William Gault, Joe McMan and Mike Graham star in Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**COVENTRY** The National Theatre presents a new production of Shakespeare's tragedy. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**GLASGOW** The 40-strong dance company Les Ballets Arabes presents a new production. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**THEATRE GUIDE** Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

**House full, returns only** **Some seats available** **Seats at all prices**

**Portia Coughlan** Four generations of women whose lives have been shaped by the same man. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES** (from Exchange, 1997) The story of a woman who finds her true self in a world of men. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

**SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE** (from Exchange, 1997) The story of a woman who finds her true self in a world of men. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

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**THE REBEL** (1997) The story of a woman who finds her true self in a world of men. 7.30pm. Barbican Centre, London. £10-15. Tel: 011-438 8821. Tonight 7.30pm.

## LONDON GALLERIES

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## POP: Nashville's slickest wows the faithful in Dublin; pop's most tortured ego lands in London

## Straight from the hat

**Garth Brooks**  
Croke Park, Dublin

These were the only European dates on his current tour, and given that they were sandwiched between a mammoth live itinerary in America, they testify to the special relationship that Ireland has forged with Brooks in particular and with country music in general.

Abandoning the huge stage for a platform bang in the middle of his devoted followers, Brooks sang the opening verse of his homage to Hibernia — entitled *Ireland* — unaccompanied; his voice mimicking the cadences of traditional Irish folk song. A touching gesture of solidarity or a load of old blarney? A genuine attempt to bond with his fans or a PR stunt that would make Peter Mandelson blush? Unfortunately, at this moment, Brooks' training as a marketing executive becomes all too apparent.

However, there is no arguing about the sheer professionalism of the operation. From the thundering model of a NASA space station rising spectacularly from the stage at the beginning to the dazzling fireworks during *The Dance* at the finale, this gig pushed all the right showbiz buttons.

The band, which included Trisha Yearwood and Susan Ashton on backing vocals, were flawless and the two-hour set was perfectly paced to accommodate ravenous country rock-out and pathos-driven love songs.

There was only one ingredient missing: soul. This is music which smokes — but never inhales. And like Brooks himself, it is a little too eager to please. But as all the swaying stonks illustrated, people want to be pleased.

NICK KELLY



Urban cowboy: Garth Brooks interrupted his current American tour to massage his Irish market with three record-breaking, sell-out concerts

## Something to crow about

**Counting Crows**  
Empire, W12

well past two million copies sold worldwide, and on this evidence its best songs are on their way to sharing some of the anthemic status of their predecessors.

The sound and demeanour of this tightly-woven collective are surprisingly robust for a group sometimes portrayed as delicate creative flowers. Durriz is the ultimate first-person lyricist and a glib, confident purveyor of what Todd Rundgren once called the ever-popular tortured artist affect, but the anger and desperation

he evoked on pieces such as *I'm Not Sleeping* seemed heartfelt indeed.

Each time the band returned to the album that made their name, *August and Everything After*, it was to note-perfect and harp-riddled accompaniment from a devoted audience. But the encore performance of *A Long December*, from the second album, was the night's most touching. One of the Crows' simplest pieces, featuring Durriz at the piano, it proved that sometimes it takes fewer notes than expected to score a real emotional bullseye.

PAUL SEXTON

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## Enthusiasm wanes for statutory interest on late payments

By Rodney Hobson

TODAY, as MPs debate the business proposals in the Queen's Speech, there is evidence that enthusiasm among small companies for a statutory right to interest on late payments is being dampened by their advisers. Concerns range from what size of companies will be allowed to claim interest to the cost of collecting the penalty.

Small business organisations and advisers will have ample opportunity to voice their worries. A Green Paper will be published before Parliament breaks up in July for the summer recess and the DTI is keen to carry out the widest possible consultation by the autumn.

The Bill will be steered through the Commons by Barbara Roche, the Minister for Small Business and an enthusiast for tackling the issue of late payments. The DTI points out that a range of surveys has highlighted the issue as a big worry for small businesses and that a majority see statutory interest as a possible solution. The Forum of Private Business, which has 24,000 members, has led the campaign for interest on late payments.

However, Robert Cressy, of the SME Centre at Warwick University, said: "If small businesses knew the reality of what a statutory right to interest would mean they would probably be less keen. They could be shooting themselves in the foot. Small businesses are net debtors rather than net creditors."

The British Chamber of Commerce went further, immediately attacking the government proposals as "ill conceived". Ian Peters, deputy director-general, said small businesses will not be able to make the

law stick. He fears that the new Labour Government is in too much of a hurry to demonstrate its support for small businesses.

That reaction flies in the face of surveys of small businesses that make up Chambers of Commerce membership. For instance, a report by the Small Business Research Centre at Kingston University, on behalf of Office World, found that late payment was the single most important policy issue for small businesses in the run-up to the election. A statutory right to interest was the favoured solution.

Simon Lees, group product manager at Equifax, the commercial information supplier, said: "Legislation may be useful because it sets a business climate that says payments should be made within agreed terms... but small businesses will be reluctant to prejudice relations with major customers."

Mike Davis, small business services director at Barclays Bank, said: "Businesses are already free to include interest clauses in contracts in respect of late payments. This practice is not commonplace, particularly among smaller businesses, because of the time and cost involved and the impact this could have on future business."

David Miles, a partner at BDO Stoy Hayward, said: "The planned legislation seems unlikely to benefit growing businesses in general although it may be of help to those businesses that only have one-off relationships such as building contractors where late payment can too easily lead to insolvency."

Stephen Alambritis, spokesman for the Federation of Small Businesses, said businesses should do more to help themselves by taking out credit references, sending out invoices promptly to the right department and chasing up overdue accounts. He said: "Small businesses jump for joy when they get an order. Only later do they think about getting paid. An order that is supplied and not paid for is not an order, it is a gift."

He wants the courts' role toughened. "It is up to you to organise bailiffs and get the judgment enforced. The court should do that." He welcomes references in the Queen's Speech to the possibility of drawing up a blacklist of late payers and to government departments paying more promptly.



"Yes, I know you've got a cash flow problem. It's all flowing out of here"

## Company charts course for the final journey

By Mark Andrews

BURIAL at sea is usually reserved for those who die on voyage. Warships, merchant ships and cruise liners slip their dead into the deep. If you die on land and have opted for a watery grave, it is not so easy. Only 104 people have been buried at sea in the past eight years.

"It's an involved business," says Stephen Charles-Davis, head of the Britannia Shipping Company for Burial at Sea. His company, based at Newton Hopton, Sidmouth, Devon, and seems to have cornered the market.

Mr Charles-Davis, once an osteopath, formed Britannia when his father expressed a wish to be buried at sea. He could find no one to do it — so he followed the rules and did it himself. That was ten years ago. The business now has a staff of 12, six of them part-timers. The chaplain is a retired Royal Navy padre.

Disposal of a body at sea is licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. You also need the authority of a coroner to take a body out of the country.

"It's tightly regulated," says Mr Charles-Davis. "There are only two places in England and Wales where you can commit a body to the deep, 11 miles off Newhaven, in East Sussex, and 2½ miles off the Needles on the Isle of Wight."

These areas are designated no-fishing and no-dredging spots. "You can't bury bodies at sea that have been embalmed, because of the toxics involved, and they must be disease free," says Mr Charles-Davis. "It's advisable to use bio-



Stephen Charles-Davis, left, and Austin Riley, a fellow director of the Britannia burial-at-sea company

degradable paper shrouds. The coffins are made from marine plywood. They're drilled with 40 two-inch diameter holes and weighted on the bottom with six hundredweight of degradable concrete. All are designed to rot after four years. So will the body — a natural process of decay, due to the action of the sea."

Britannia hires a small Isle of Wight ferry — often the *Island Rose* — and installs a tipping platform. To ensure burial at the right spot, a retired Navy officer navigates.

Sir Ludovic Kennedy, the broadcaster, is a director of Britannia and

an enthusiast for burial at sea. "The sea is the great watery womb from which our ancestors emerged," he says. "What is more natural than to be returned there?"

Britannia does two burials a month, on average. "It's never going to compete with interment and cremation," says Mr Charles-Davis. "And we're not in competition with them. We're offering a special service to a few who want it."

Cost is a big factor — conventional burial or cremation costs about £1,300. Burial at sea is nearly £3,000. Britannia also carries out many scatterings of ashes at sea. It

can be done by relatives from a rowing boat, but Britannia can give it a sense of occasion by providing a chaplain, or even a piper.

Mr Charles-Davis says that it is helpful if someone who wants to be buried at sea informs the company beforehand, to minimise delay in arranging to bring the body for embarkation at Keyhaven, Hampshire.

Mourners can use a cabin for refreshments and music can be played as the ship reaches the burial area, for the chaplain to say a prayer for commitment to the deep.

□ Britannia: 01955 568652

## The paper mountain that costs the earth

By Rodney Hobson

SECRETARIES have long suspected it. Now they have the evidence. The spread of electronic systems has added to the amount of paperwork and employees do not have a clue how much they are spending on consuming the world's supply of trees.

Gestetner, which started making office machinery in 1881 when it launched its stencil duplicator, has just started a consultancy division after talking to company directors about office costs.

Nigel Palmer, managing director of Gestetner Consulting, says: "The daily life of every office worker is directly affected by the technology that helps us to print, copy and present papers in endless different shapes, colours and packages. But few organisations have taken stock of how much it is costing them to produce these seemingly endless pieces of paper that pile up on our desks, in our files and in our bins."

He tackled bosses and asked them how much photocopies and faxes cost. Most picked a figure that was about half the true cost.

Mr Palmer says: "A third of company directors admit that when they need papers for a meeting they simply do not give any thought to how those documents are produced." Few seemed to realise that copying in colour was far more expensive than black and white.

Mr Palmer points to the sharp increase in the use of fax machines. Fewer than 50,000 a year were sold ten years ago. Last year 600,000 were bought.

### BRIEFINGS

Stoker Training, Harlow College and Hertfordshire Tec. Tel: Linda Johnston 01279 868300.

□ Almost half Britain's small businesses believe preparations for a single European currency, including new accountancy systems, pricing structures and computer equipment and software, will cost them up to £5,000, says a Lloyds TSB report. In addition, two thirds say they do not know what to do next. John Spence, Lloyds TSB's business banking managing director, wants greater clarification of the possible effects.

of crime and the proportion being reported. The findings will be put to the police in the hope that all incidents will be fully investigated. At the same time the federation is urging its members to report all criminal incidents to the police to strengthen the campaign to persuade them to take action.

□ Owner managers with little time for training are responding to the Institute of Management's

modular programmes for new entrepreneurs and owners wanting to be more competitive. Modules can be taken one or two at a time providing basic knowledge for National Vocational Qualifications at levels 3 and 4. Tel: 01536 204222.

□ To reduce the threat of out-of-town shopping and supermarkets to small retailers, Harlow College in Essex is offering free training in

customer service. Training is for employees or owner-managers, who then train their staff and increase their product knowledge. Targeted towns are Harlow, Saffron Walden, St Albans and Bishop's Cleeve, where a successful pilot has been held. The next stage will be to develop owners' business skills and help them to form groups to strengthen their buying power. Funding is by Europe's Adapt To Survive initiative. Dow

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# LAW

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Julia and Nick Richardson outside their house near Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire. Traffic noise has made their home life "unbearable"

## Battle of Eagle Farm

Jonathan Clay reports a planning decision that has prevented a farmer from building on his own land

Nick and Julia Richardson have lost their final battle in the High Court to build a new farmhouse on the land in Buckinghamshire that their family has farmed for more than 40 years. Ironically, their defeat came not long after the Government published a new Planning Policy Guidance (PPG7), which heralded the return of the "country house" to legitimate rural development.

The Richardsons' existing home had been rendered "unbearable" — because of the ever-increasing traffic on the M1 passing yards away. Nevertheless, at the recent hearing in the High Court, Michael Rich, QC, a deputy High Court judge, upheld the planning inspector's decision to refuse permission for a new farmhouse to replace their home. In planning policy terms, it would not be a "replacement" because it was too far away from the site of the existing house (in order to escape the noise, and because it is to be bought by the Highways Agency, the Richardsons could not ensure that the existing house would be demolished. A "replacement" dwelling, Mr Rich ruled, must be "on the same site as the existing house".

Mrs Richardson's parents had bought Eagle Farm in 1954, well before the M1 was carved through Buckinghamshire in 1960. In the early years of the motorway, about 20,000 vehicles a day passed on dual two-lane carriageways. By 1980, when Mr Richardson took over the running of the farm from his father-in-law, the motorway was dual three-lane and carrying about four times that amount of traffic. The heaviest flows were in the morning and

evening peak periods. Since then, traffic has more than doubled again, and, as the motorway network reaches its congestion threshold, the peak hours have spread, so that for the whole of the day and much of the night the motorway is carrying huge volumes of traffic, about 20 per cent of it heavy goods vehicles. The Highways Agency now plans to widen the motorway again, by adding a fourth lane in each direction on each side.

As Mr Richardson put it: "We have a stark choice: either to remain in the existing house, where the noise level is so high that planning permission for a new house on the existing site would be automatically refused, for noise reasons alone, or find alternative accommodation in nearby Milton Keynes as the local planning authority suggested, and which was endorsed by the planning inspector."

Their case is not simply a personal tragedy. It exposes how, in trying to protect the countryside "for its own sake" (as PPG7 puts it), the restrictions provided by the legislative and policy framework of planning, combined with the objectives of the national strategic highway network, are acting to expel a genuine farmer from his own farm.

By the chairman's casting vote, the planning committee of Milton Keynes Borough Council turned down the application for planning permission on a new site, 200 metres from the existing house. The appeal mechanism swung into action and after a two-day public inquiry, the Department of Environment Inspector turned down the appeal. The inspector considered that the new house, though well designed, would cause "serious harm" to the open countryside because of its prominence in the landscape.

Such is the planning framework surrounding the countryside that a well-loved feature in the English landscape, a farmhouse on a farm, is now thought to be a harmful development in the open countryside.

The inspector considered the personal circumstances of the Richardsons and their two teenage sons and though he found himself "greatly taxed" by them, he considered himself obliged, having regard to the planning policy and the effect on the countryside, to dismiss the appeal.

Section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, creates a presumption, in favour of the local development plan, which confined new housing to villages and towns. This meant the Richardsons had to cross the hurdle of falling within one of the exceptions in the Buckinghamshire Structure Plan by which new isolated houses in the countryside might be granted permission.

The two exceptions that could apply allowed such houses if necessary for agriculture or involved "extension, improvement or replacement of an existing dwelling. Ironically, though they farm their 60 hectares at Eagle Farm from the Eagle Farm House, the Richardsons could not justify their new farmhouse on agricultural grounds because the land is largely under arable cultivation and the tight conditions "under the national

Planning Policy Guidance on new farm buildings do not generally justify a farmer living on his land. So Mr Richardson turned to the second exception, arguing that his new house would be a "replacement" for his existing farmhouse. After all, it would be the new house of the farmer who farms the land and would be situated on the farm. This interpretation was rejected as not generally accepted; and was, the judge said, "wholly misconceived".

The Richardsons and their two young sons now face the choice of bearing the unbearable, or joining the daily commuters of Milton Keynes, contributing to the very problem that is driving them from their home. A recent study for the council shows that hundreds of acres of farm land on the periphery of the town are likely to be swallowed up by the expansion of Milton Keynes during the next 20 years.

The new PPG7, Planning Policy Guidance for the Countryside, published last February — which replaces the guidance used in the Richardsons' appeal — proclaims that "Sustainable development is the cornerstone of both the Government's rural policies and its planning policies". That includes the aim of meeting "the economic and social needs of people who live and work in rural areas" and reducing the need for commuting by cars.

If such sentiments are to be met in reality, planning policy will need to be flexible enough to recognise that there is something intrinsically valuable in having a farmer living on his land. Not to do so ignores a relationship, understood in the cradle of what we now call "civilisation", between people and the cultivation of land.

● The author is a barrister at 11 Bolt Court, Fleet Street.

Motorway traffic passes within yards of the house

Planning Policy Guidance on new farm buildings do not generally justify a farmer living on his land.

## The law officers are worthy of their hire

There is no subject of greater interest to lawyers than the earnings of their colleagues. Of particular fascination this month is that a successful commercial lawyer, Charles Falconer, QC, has given up a lucrative career at the Bar to become Solicitor-General.

The Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General have onerous responsibilities as the principal legal advisers to the Government and to the Crown. The Attorney-General (John Morris, QC) receives £63,756 a year, plus his salary of £43,860 as an MP. The Solicitor-General currently receives £52,278, which would normally be supplemented by an MP's salary. Because Mr Falconer is not an MP, his salary will be increased to £78,072, the amount currently paid to the Lord Advocate.

Until 1946, how much the law officers should be paid was a subject of political and public controversy. The deal done to settle the issue has, in the past 50 years, been so undermined by the financial disadvantage of the law officers that a successful barrister is now required to show a very strong sense of public duty if he is to accept the post.

The history is discussed by Professor John Edwards in *The Law Officers of the Crown* (Sweet & Maxwell, 1964). Traditionally, the law officers received a fee for each item of legal advice and each case in which they represented the Crown, and were also able to act for private clients. Consequently, their earnings were substantial. In 1616, Sir Francis Bacon received £6,000 a year while acting as Attorney-General. In the 1850s, Solicitor-General Sir Richard Bethell earned more than £20,000 a year.

A Treasury minute in 1871 imposed some control by paying an annual salary for non-contentious Crown business: £7,000 to the Attorney-General and £6,000 to the Solicitor-General. They continued to receive fees for contentious business and associated opinions "according to the ordinary professional scale", and were permitted to act for private clients. As Solicitor-General from 1871 until his appointment as Master of the Rolls in 1873, Sir George Jessel earned an astonishing £30,000 a year.

By the 1890s, the Government was aggrieved by the difficulty in obtaining advice from the law officers when they were so busy representing private clients. There was also public and professional criticism of the Attorney-General, Sir Richard Webster (although it did not prevent his becoming Lord Chief Justice Alverstone), for his sharp conduct when appearing as counsel for the

Times. As a result, in 1892 Gladstone's Government prohibited the law officers from appearing as counsel for private clients.

But in addition to their salaries, the law officers continued to earn substantial fees for representing the Crown in court. In 1921, Sir Gordon Hewart, as Attorney-General, received £27,000 for such work. Lloyd George told a parliamentary select committee in 1930 that such remuneration from the Crown was "outrageous" and "preposterous" since he "did not believe any lawyer would refuse to accept the post if you said to him 'You will get £7,000 and the headship of your profession'."

Change was inevitable, despite the subtle argument to the 1930 select committee by the first Lord Hailsham, himself a former Attorney-General, that the fees were effectively paid by unsuccessful litigants ordered to pay costs after being defeated by the superior advocacy of the law officers. But just as the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not receive extra remuneration for greater productivity, so the law officers had to accept an all-inclusive salary for their work.

In 1946, it was agreed that the Attorney-General would be paid £10,000 a year and the Solicitor-General £7,000. At a time when a High Court judge earned £5,000, those salaries were set at reasonable figures which recognised that law officers would be giving up lucrative careers at the Bar and would have onerous responsibilities in court and out.

In the past 50 years (when the cost of living has increased twentyfold), the salaries of the law officers have fallen substantially in real and comparative terms, in breach of the implied terms of the 1946 agreement. Of course, a Solicitor-General cannot expect to be paid what successful barristers earn in private practice. But the status and duties of the post require that payment should be at least level with the (ungenerous) annual salary of a High Court judge, which is now £108,192.

It is no coincidence that just as the payments to the law officers have substantially declined in value since 1946, so have the number of occasions on which the Incumbents have represented the Crown in court. Parliament has required that the salary of the Lord Chancellor should be £2,500 a year more than that of the Lord Chief Justice (currently £138,165). The new Parliament should link the pay for the Solicitor-General to that for a High Court judge, and link the wages of the Attorney-General to those received by a Court of Appeal judge (£122,415).

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



DAVID PANNICK QC

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

### 3 HARE COURT

The Chambers of William Clegg QC congratulate The Right Honourable John Morris QC on his appointment as Attorney General.

Chambers also congratulate Nigel Lithman on becoming Queen's Counsel and welcome Philip Hackett, formerly of Clouston, and Christine Henson, who has successfully completed her pupillage, as members of Chambers.

The Members of Chambers are:

Mr. William Clegg Q.C.	Mr. Mark Halsey	Miss Maureen McGowan	Mr. Richard Matthews
The Rt. Hon. John Morris Q.C.	Mr. Robert Neill	Mr. Brian Altman	Mr. Jonathan Ashley-Norman
Mr. Michael Lewis Q.C.	Mr. Andrew Williams	Mr. Peter Lodder	Mr. Thomas Derbyshire
Mr. Howard Godfrey Q.C.	Miss Margaret Barnes	Mr. Keith Mitchell	Mr. James Agnew
Mr. Andrew Munday Q.C.	Mr. John Caddle	Mr. Jim Sharram	Miss Christine Agnew
Mr. Alan Jenkins Q.C.	Mr. Anthony Abell	Miss Jane Melvor	Mr. Michael Epstein
Mr. Nigel Lithman Q.C.	Mr. Philip Hackett	Mr. Gela King	Miss Valerie Charbit
Mr. Robert Finch	Mr. John Dodd	Mr. Timothy Kendall	Mr. John Hurlock
Mr. Charles Conway	Mr. Michael Levy	Mr. Mark Millen-Smith	Miss Alison Pope
Miss Deborah Champion	Mr. John Livingston	Mr. Christopher Campbell-Clyde	Miss Christine Henson
Mr. Nigel Ingram			

Senior Clerk: John O'Driscoll  
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## Row over Woolf

LORD WOOLF, Master of the Rolls, and Michael Zander, of the London School of Economics, are in public dispute over the Woolf reforms to civil justice. It started with Professor Zander's speech last month to the Chancery Bar Association, a detailed critique of the Woolf reforms, which Professor Zander has attacked for the past two years.

Lord Woolf last week hit back in his Gee lecture to the Royal College of Physicians. The professor's criticisms were "misleading and inaccurate" and to pay him serious attention, Lord Woolf said, would be "to give him credit he does not deserve".

Professor Zander, who was in the audience, tried to answer back, but was firmly silenced by the chairman. The debate has a serious point: concern is growing that Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, the new Lord Chancellor, might "call a halt" to work in progress, while the cost-benefit analysis he wants is carried out.

## OUTS

Lord Woolf said: "Unintentionally, [Professor Zander] would damage a process of change which is already taking place and which — while it will not be smooth — offers real hope for the future, as judges, practitioners and insurance bodies up and down the land recognise."

Best employers  
DAVIES Arnold Cooper and Clifford Chance are the only two law firms to be included in

the Corporate Research Foundation's new ranking of Britain's best employers. DAC is thus the only law firm to feature in both the Top UK Employers and Top 100 UK Companies of the Future publications.

To celebrate, DAC offered champagne to all staff — and visitors — last Friday, and gave staff an extra day off. What is Clifford Chance doing?

## SOCIETY do of the year

FORGET the seaside, the Law Society's headquarters off Fleet Street will be the fashionable destination for day-trippers this summer. Flyers promoting a one-price trip to Chancery Lane in June are being distributed to solicitors in the South West. For just £15, they will be ferried to London by minibus for an action-packed tour of the society's bustling headquarters. The flyer says: "A comprehensive programme has been put together, presenting an opportunity to meet and quiz senior members of the Law Society's management team."

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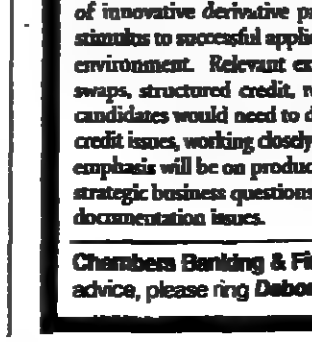
SUE YOUR ANSWERING MACHINE BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT NO MESSAGES



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Prestigious international firm with excellent capital base, derivatives and project requests is seeking an additional senior lawyer whose role will be to help develop the firm's UK relationships and reputation, broadening the range of finance work. You will come from a top 20 City firm and want to join a department which is really making a name in the City but where there is still the opportunity to manage a team and make a difference. (Ref:9454)
- INTERNATIONAL CORP FISE** £65,000+  
Our client is an international industrial company renowned to be profitable and progressive. They are seeking a 4-6 year qualified corporate finance lawyer, ideally Spanish speaking, from a top 10 firm to be based in London and deal with international corporate transactions. The company encourages lawyers to progress their careers in the medium term outside the legal department. (Ref:9757)
- US FIRM - ASSISTANT** £40-100,000  
Looking for a change of environment, interesting work, and an international US emphasis, why not consider an American law firm? Quality at the New York Bar work on exchange between New York and London and be well compensated for your firm. Already established in London, this firm seeks finance and international corporate/M&A lawyers, 1-4 years qualified, for phase two of its expansion plan. (Ref:9240)
- EMPLOYMENT** TO £42,000  
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- KOREA - EMERGING MARKETS** £COMPETITIVE  
International law firm with strong presence in expanding South East Asia and Far Eastern markets requires Korean legal consultant to enter the development of its Korea practice. Applicant must have broad experience of both UK and Korean law (particularly insurance and banking), knowledge of doing business in the Pacific Rim and, ideally, will be able to speak and write fluent Korean and English. Based in London, you can expect to spend time working in Korea from time to time. (Ref:9067)
- COMMERCIAL PROPERTY** £35-60,000  
City practice, widely regarded as a partner leader for property, requires a number of lawyers, 1-4 years' qualified to deal with increasing work in its property, development and PFI teams. If you have relevant experience, are prepared to work hard and have partnership aspirations, then in return you will get high quality work and an excellent remuneration package. (Ref:7284)
- PROFESSOR** TO £50,000  
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- PHARMACEUTICALS - SOUTH EAST** TO £50,000  
A new opportunity has arisen within this prestigious pharmaceutical subsidiary of a European company. They seek a 3-5 year qualified lawyer to be the sole UK legal adviser dealing with all legal matters including contract, employment law, IP and related matters. Ability to speak French would be an advantage along with an understanding of the pharmaceutical industry. (Ref:9941)
- CORPORATE TAX** TO £50,000  
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- PENSIONS** TO £35,000  
Pre-eminent City firm seeks an associate with around 1 year's relevant experience to join highly regarded pensions team. You will have an excellent academic background and must be able to demonstrate a thorough working knowledge of the pensions regime as you will be drafting and advising on new schemes, reviewing existing schemes and providing expert support on corporate transactions. Close link team, offering excellent training. (Ref:8508)
- GO GO - BUCKS** £30K +  
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For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other private practice vacancies registered with us, please contact Andrew Cawthorne or Yvonne Smyth (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-523 3838 (01483-828110 evenings/weekends). If you are interested in in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hicks on 0171-523 3838 (0171-442 5237 evenings/weekends). Alternatively write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax: 0171-247 5174. E-mail: andy@zmb.co.uk

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## CHAMBERS

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During the recession, London lawyers moved out to the provinces in large numbers. This flow has now changed direction. Almost half the candidates are from the City and the West End are from regional firms. They fill positions in corporate or corporate finance, banking, insolvency, intellectual property, private client and commercial property. Movement on this scale has not been seen for years.

Other things being equal - good academic background, relevant experience - candidates from the regions are popular with London firms. They have one significant advantage: their desire to move to London raises no doubts or queries. They do not have to overcome the key question facing London-based candidates: "Why is this candidate on the job-market?" Moving to London - in the eyes of most City partners - is so readily desirable, so self-evidently intelligent, that all candidates seeking to do so are treated with sound common sense.

The converse of this is that vacancies in the regions have increased substantially. One of our candidates - a young solicitor with a City firm who wants to move to the North West - will be seeing about ten top-quality firms in the space of a week. The regional firms have never been stronger, and the time has never been better for relocating out of London.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY  
Our legal directory is available from Blooms, (01403 - 710 971)

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**Insolvency:** City  
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Experienced lawyer, ideally Scottish, to run Aberdeen operations of major oil and gas co. Expect of working in or for the upstream oil and gas industry is essential.

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Major Adviser/Co Sec rep by UK engineering group. Duties incl contract drafting, IP, management of external legal advisers, servicing Board meetings and providing advice and guidance on commercial issues. Knowledge of the Yellow Book required.

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Major leisure company needs a solicitor/barrister 2-5 years' ppe with proven negotiating skills to handle various development projects.

**Pensions:** City  
Ground-breaking Big Six accountancy 'start up' law firm seeks 0-2 year qualified solicitor for mix of legal and consultancy with emphasis on legal.

**Construction Partner:** City  
Major City firm seeks partner or partner designate to further strengthen their construction/engineering group. Experience of the energy sector would be useful.

**Head of Banking:** City  
Medium-sized firm with unusually strong Anglo-American presence seeks senior solicitor for broad general corporate banking caseload.

**Snr Construction:** Birmingham  
National Practice seeks 3-6 year qualified specialist to handle quality work and provide advice to other offices. Opportunity for overseas project work.

**Employment:** Leeds  
Highly regarded national firm requires a 3-7 year qualified solicitor to handle non-cont and cont work for corporate, large company and institutional clients.

## Are You a Fast Mover?

### London-Private Practice

With such a buoyant market, firms are now snapping up good quality candidates and in some cases firms have been offering positions after just one interview. If you would like a quick move in private practice, these are some of our current vacancies:

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This niche practice offers exciting co/com work for high Young, dynamic team in medium size firm offers unrivalled profile clients in the entertainment industry. Superb working opportunity to junior lawyer wishing to gain top-notch regulatory experience. Superb EE.
- IP/IT** NQ-2/4-6yrs  
Go ahead firm seeks two lawyers for its prestigious IP/IT department offering a high quality caseload and fantastic working environment.
- CORPORATE** NQ-2yrs  
Leading City firm seeks bright junior lawyer for genuine prospects and high profile work. Good academics and major firm background are a must.
- IT** 2-6yrs  
High calibre caseload awaits ambitious lawyer at this City firm with leading reputation in the IT field.
- PROPERTY FINANCE** 1-4yrs  
Highly regarded City firm with superb property department seeks strong calibre lawyer ideally with property or finance background. Excellent client contact.
- CONSTRUCTION LIT.** NQ-3yrs  
Top quality litigation workload offered by major Construction practice. Personality is as important as academics. This is a superb chance to gain excellent litigation training.
- PENSIONS/EE BENES** Part-Time  
Highly regarded City firm is happy to employ strong calibre Pensions or Employee Benefits Lawyers on a part time basis.

## The Best In-House Vacancies

- CORPORATE FINANCE** NQ-18mths  
High profile int'l bank has opportunities for top calibre numerate corp. finance lawyers to move into front-line non-legal roles. Strong academics & City training essential.
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- FRAUD/INVESTIGATIONS** to £35k  
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- BLUE CHIP - CORPORATE** 3-5yrs  
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Please contact Sophie Brooks (London) or, for In-House vacancies, contact Struan Hall, Tel 0171 430 1711 or write to Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Fax 0171 431 4186.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 20 1997

Damages awards against US media average \$2.8 million, reports James Zirin

**H**uge verdicts in libel cases are back in vogue in America. Despite all the legal obstacles, the average damages award in libel and privacy cases against the media in 1996 was \$2.8 million (about £1.7 million), significantly up from the 1995 average of \$1.6 million.

On March 20, a seven-person Houston federal court jury awarded a record \$22.7 million in compensatory and punitive damages against the company that publishes *The Wall Street Journal* and one of the *Journal's* reporters. The plaintiff, a defunct brokerage, claimed it had been forced out of business by an article containing at least eight false statements about its financial and business practices. Commenting on the staggering verdict, the managing editor of the *Journal* explained that the paper merely chronicled the difficulties of the brokerage; it did not cause them.

Last December a Miami jury returned a \$10 million libel verdict against ABC in favour of Alan Levin, Bank Atlantic's chairman, and his BFC Financial Corp. Mr Levin claimed that the network defamed him in a programme that was highly critical of a real-estate-forbonds swap he had engineered. The jury regarded the programme as a hatchet job on Levin's character.

Highly publicised settlements have added fuel to the fire. Consider the case of Richard Jewell, the Atlanta security guard investigated by the FBI last summer in connection with the bombing at the Atlanta Olympics. After the FBI dropped Mr Jewell as a suspect, he won cash settlements from NBC and CNN and filed a libel suit against the *Atlanta Constitution* for implying that Mr Jewell was the man responsible.

The paper has said it will fight the case because it considers that the suit puts at issue its credibility and reputation.

In 1964, when the Supreme Court in *New York Times v Sullivan* decided that constitutional free-press guarantees permitted a public figure to sue for libel only if there has been shown by "clear and convincing evidence" either "knowledge of the falsity" or a "reckless disregard for the truth", many thought it effectively sounded the death knell on defamation claims in America. The court reasoned that the first remedy of any victim of defamation is self-

## In the land of the multimillion libel

help: countering the false statement by effective communication, and public figures normally enjoy greater access to the media than private persons who may lack effective means of rebuttal.

There was a further underpinning to the court's reasoning. Public figures have chosen to assume positions of special prominence in society. A prominent footballer has eagerly performed under the spotlight of media attention. The court considers that the media are entitled to assume that public figures have voluntarily exposed themselves to increased risk of injury from defamatory falsehood.

A public figure may have achieved such fame or notoriety that he or she becomes a public figure for all purposes or may, through participation in the controversy giving rise to the defamation, become a "limited purpose public figure" who has thrust himself into the vortex of public opinion. A "limited purpose public figure" could be

almost anyone newsworthy. The Supreme Court in *Sullivan* effectively threw a monkey wrench into the ancient libel machinery. It is almost impossible to prove either that a news organisation knowingly published a false statement or published a statement uncaring whether it was true or false. Such matters involve probing someone's state of mind. And that is often difficult to prove.

Some public figures, however, have not been daunted by the obstacles. General William Westmoreland sued CBS some years ago, claiming that he had been libelled by the suggestion that he had deliberately understated enemy troop strength in Vietnam. To the consternation of his supporters, he capitulated, withdrawing the case just before it was to go to the jury. General Ariel Sharon sued *Time* magazine for suggesting that the secret report of an Israeli investigative commission had held him responsible for a massacre of civilians in Lebanon. The jury decided for *Time*, finding the statements in the magazine

false but published without knowledge of the falsity or reckless disregard for the truth. Both lawsuits, though unsuccessful in court, served to rebut the unfounded published reports.

Juries hostile to the media have returned large damages awards in suits brought by public figures. Such awards, however, are in most cases overturned on appeal. Since *Sullivan*, more than 56 per cent of plaintiffs' verdicts in libel cases have been reversed on appeal, compared with a 17 per cent reversal rate in federal civil cases overall.

Back in Texas, the latest action involves the reporting of a police investigation into charges later established to be unfounded. After Erik Wil-



Richard Jewell, above, unfairly accused, and Erik Williams, who claimed a story against him was concocted

liams, the star offensive lineman for the Dallas Cowboys, was falsely accused of rape, he is suing the local television station and its reporter, alleging they coaxed the woman in the accusations so they could have a story. Mr Williams says he will donate any proceeds to charity.

Libel actions pose the question of what is more important: an individual's interest in his good name or the public's interest in a free press? What is more valuable: the freedom to publish or the duty to publish the truth? The debate rages on in the context of legal proceedings that pit the media's reputation against that of the people in the news.

● The author is a lawyer with the New York law firm Brown & Wood.



Tite, left, and Lewis link with Coopers & Lybrand

Edward Fennell reports on a developing strategy in the City that will have implications for law firms

**N**othing stands still for long in the law business. Just a fortnight ago there were celebrations for a decade of dominance of the London scene by Clifford Chance and the success of its international formula.

But already it seems that this formula, now adopted by an elite group of half a dozen firms, may have to change within the next five years.

The party-poopers are the big accountancy firms. Throughout the City's legal community, the realisation has dawned within the last week or two that there can be no possibility of mistaking the seriousness with which the big City accountancy outfits intend to tackle legal services.

Just how far they have intended to go has been a matter of

## Birth of the mega-biz?

speculation since Garretts was established with the backing of Arthur Andersen in the early 1990s. This was followed by Coopers & Lybrand, which agreed terms with Tite & Lewis, and Price Waterhouse with its Arrheim & Co initiative.

Andersen now positions itself as an all-round "business adviser" and legal advice is a key part of the service. Peter Wyman, Coopers & Lybrand's tax chief, acknowledges that the Andersen initiative has "changed the market" and that for his firm, too, "integrated legal and accounting services" will be important. And

KPMG, which has no law firm in the UK, is now looking hard at the possibility of developing one for more likely, a group of associated regional firms.

So the period of market testing is ending, and the results are positive. People such as Julia Chain, who heads Garretts, says the last couple of years have confirmed that many clients want integrated, multidisciplinary business-advice services.

Christopher Tite and Mark Lewis have had the same experience. Because of a link with Coopers & Lybrand, they reckon that Tite & Lewis will have

doubled in size by the end of the year. They are receiving work from Coopers' existing clients and Coopers is gaining clients through Tite & Lewis.

The new formula of being part of a service that provides all-round business advice rather than simply technical skills is attractive to those who are still fairly new to the profession. But it could take a decade before the top firms feel under any pressure.

There has been gossip for a few months about Garretts again leading the way in seeking a merger with a large City firm. It pulled off a coup in Spain by linking with

Garriques, probably the country's most respected and modern law firm. Now, Andersen, through Garretts, is likely to do something roughly similar in London. When that happens, it will send shock waves around the City. Not only important in itself, it will also, almost certainly, force the hands of the other accountancy-based firms.

And remember, the real impetus for change comes from exactly the same arguments as made by Chance and Freshfields about their own growth. The biggest corporate clients want global services. Mr Tite and Mr Lewis, say: "Coopers & Lybrand can already provide them on a scale bigger than the largest City law firms can offer and that is where the accountants have the edge."

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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**EU/COMPETITION**  
Senior Assistant - Brussels  
A dynamic City practice is seeking a high calibre senior EU/Competition assistant to set up and run its new office in Brussels. The firm's workload has expanded dramatically in recent times specifically in the IT telecommunications market which is a major factor in its expansion. As well as having first class experience in the EU/Competition field, the successful candidate will be ready for new challenges and have the confidence, maturity and ambition necessary to start up an operation of this kind. The financial rewards are excellent with the genuine prospect of rapid partnership. Ref: T00254.R.

**PRIVATE CLIENT**  
Partner Designate  
Leading international City firm requires a senior assistant/partner to replace a partner who is leaving the practice. Opportunity to take on an established practice and to assist in the further development of this important element of the firm. The practice is committed to maintaining a private client department and offers partnership for the right applicant. Substantial package which offers a high degree of stability for the future. Ref: T00272.C.

**TAX**  
Senior  
This tax department in the City has recently recruited several well-known tax specialists for their creativity in devising new tax products, particularly in relation to cross-border matters. It now seeks to strengthen its team by the addition of a further tax specialist from a well known City or provincial law firm. Good contacts and reputation in this field are essential. Ref: T10401.G.

**BANKING**  
2 to 4 Years Qualified  
A major UK Bank is looking to recruit a lawyer to handle a broad range of activities. This will include drafting and negotiating banking agreements, working on special projects and initiatives, dealing with sophisticated financial products in the capital markets area and giving legal support to client teams. Candidates must have a general banking background combined with some capital markets experience. This role would suit someone who works well independently and is ready to take on responsibility at a junior level. Ideally, candidates will be from one of the known banking firms or at a major bank. Ref: T10503.E.

**CAPITAL MARKETS**  
4 to 8 Years Qualified  
A major international banking and financial services organisation which provides a comprehensive range of financial services is looking for a lawyer to join its capital markets team which is part of the group legal department. This will include broadly based capital markets work dealing directly with traders, sales, risk management and documentation groups and with a policy function liaising directly with Hong Kong and New York. Must have capital markets experience together with familiarity of ISDA, FSA and ISMA. Ref: T245.E.

**EMPLOYMENT**  
2 to 5 Years Qualified  
An employment lawyer with a mix of contentious and non-contentious experience is now sought by this leading employment practice with a first class reputation. The department is particularly well known for its heavy-weight industrial Tribunal work as well as its innovative thinking and ability to devise new employment concepts. Very sought after position. Ref: T10104.G.

**COMPANY/COMMERCIAL - IN-HOUSE**  
4 to 8 Years Qualified  
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**COMPANY/COMMERCIAL**  
2 to 5 Years Qualified  
£60,000  
Originally a small firm that has rapidly expanded to become a medium sized practice and is now a large force in the corporate market, is seeking yet another assistant to join a well structured and supported department. Successful applicants will handle a mix of commercial and corporate work for mainly UK companies (public and private) many of which are in the media and entertainment field. Ref: T11553.D.

Please contact Dominique W Pengelly, Alison Barrett or Gavin Crocker (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-417-1400 or write to them at the London office for more information in complete confidence. Evenings/Weekends 0181 960 6144. Confidential Fax 0171 417 1444. Email: dominiquew@garfieldrobbins.co.uk

**IN-HOUSE**

- **European/Eminent Counsel Germany**  
A world leading US IT multinational is looking to recruit a European qualified lawyer, at least 3 years qualified, with employment/HR experience gained ideally in-house. Ref: T2956WY
- **Finance Counsel South East of France**  
This well known Anglo-French joint venture requires a circa 2 year qualified banking and finance lawyer to work with and provide advice to the Group Treasurer. Ref: T218NT
- **European Corporate Counsel London**  
This prestigious global investment bank urgently requires a 3 to 8 year qualified City solicitor with broad corporate and, in particular, M&A experience. Ref: T218NT
- **European Comm/IP South West**  
A household name US multinational seeks a 3 to 7 year qualified in-house lawyer who currently handles a European or international commercial role including IP issues. Ref: T2956WY
- **Commercial Prop./L & T Surrey**  
This diversified UK group is looking to recruit a 2 to 5 year qualified lawyer (or possibly a senior legal executive) with previous commercial property and, in particular, L&T experience. Ref: T272RN
- **Compliance Officer London**  
This global US bank is seeking a newly to 18 month qualified lawyer, preferably with regulatory/retail banking knowledge, to join a small team. An excellent package is on offer. Ref: T277RN

Contact Naveen Tuli or Rachael North

**OVERSEAS**

- **Amsterdam - In-House**  
As the Netherlands becomes an increasingly popular location for US multinationals, the demand for in-house lawyers has never been higher. Naveen Tuli, head of our In-House (Overseas) Division, will be travelling to Amsterdam towards the end of the month on behalf of a major household name US multinational looking to recruit a Legal Counsel for Northern Europe. If you are interested in exploring opportunities in the Netherlands and have qualified on the continent or have relevant languages, please call Naveen Tuli.
- **Worldwide - Practice**  
With over 100 jobs in 25 countries throughout the world, we are extremely well placed to help commercial lawyers in all disciplines looking to spend some time working in another jurisdiction. New jobs within the last week include positions for corporate, litigation and construction lawyers in Hong Kong and for a newly qualified shipping litigator in Singapore. For further information or to discuss any aspect of working overseas in private practice, please contact Daniel Lewis.

**PRACTICE**

- **Commercial Property 1-4 Years**  
This dynamic commercial firm has opportunities for 2 property solicitors. The work will include L&T and retail business park matters. Ref: T218AF
- **Company/Commercial 2-5 Years**  
This large West End firm with an excellent reputation in the corporate field needs 2 lawyers to handle mainly transactional work with some venture capital work. Ref: T490JF
- **Private Client 1-2 Years**  
This leading City firm has a requirement for a tax and estate planning lawyer to undertake a variety of work including acting for educational and other charitable organisations. Ref: T2841BK
- **Personal Injury NQ and 3-5 Years**  
This small successful North London firm has opportunities for two litigators. The more senior should ideally be qualified for panel membership. Ref: T688SK
- **Private Client South Coast**  
One of the foremost regional practices in the South has a thriving private client department. Excellent opportunities for advancement await a solicitor with not less than 2 years experience of trust and tax planning work and an interest in investment management. Ref: T219AF
- **Comm Lit - Partnership Manchester**  
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Contact Jane Foster, Samantha Knowles or Andrea Field

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## LONDON POSITIONS

**NEWLY QUALIFIED LAWYERS** £30,000  
Early indications suggest that demand for September qualifiers will be strong - although many City firms have yet to finalise their requirements in relation to their own home grown products. We are now receiving instructions from several leading central London practices in a variety of disciplines. If you regard yourself as having had good training, with a strong academic background, the next few months will see a variety of positions available in a mixture of specialisations.

**PROPERTY PEOPLE** to £52,000  
This progressive City practice has had an avalanche of instructions in the property area in 1997. At the 2-4 year level, the firm urgently seeks able assistants with solid Landlord and Tenant, development and institutional client background to join as thriving team. Never a dull moment in this practice where personal attributes are placed at a premium.

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS** to £54,000  
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**CAPITAL MARKETS** to £80,000  
Looking to join a fledgling global securities team, you will have experience of either debt and/or equity capital markets transactions with not less than two years' ppe. You will be involved in numerous securities transactions including sovereign debt, bond issues, debt offerings and IPOs and, in this extremely friendly department have the opportunity to diversify into other areas of finance if that is your wish. Premier City firm with matching offices and remuneration.

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For more information, in strictest confidence on these or other career opportunities please feel free to contact Hugh Kelly or Mark Field on 0171 588 7878 (0171 226 9398 weekends) or write to them at Kellyfield Consulting, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5EJ. Confidential fax 0171 588 7020.



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Our client is a well known Cayman Islands law firm which also has an expanding Corporate Services Department. The firm is currently offering an exciting and unique opportunity for an experienced company commercial lawyer to join its expanding practice. You will undertake an existing workload whilst also helping to expand the firm's current international corporate client base and develop a separate and distinct Company Commercial Department to work closely with their company management portfolio.

The work will be varied and challenging, covering all aspects of company commercial law and including some banking and trust matters. Whilst experience in all these fields is not a prerequisite, confidence and the willingness to get involved is important. You will be an ambitious and proactive solicitor or barrister with at least 5 years post qualification experience gained with a well known firm or chambers and you will relish the prospect of managing your own caseload and helping to develop the practice. The salary will be attractive and will be tax free.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Jane Foster at Laurence Simons International on 0171 831 3280 or write to her at the address below enclosing a full CV. Any direct or third party applications received by the firm will be forward to us.

LAURENCE SIMONS  
International Legal Recruitment

Craven House, 121 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PA Tel: +44 (0)171 831 3270 Fax: +44 (0)171 831 4429

E-mail: laurence@laurencesimons.demon.co.uk

## Corporate-Finance Executives

With 1997 predicted to be yet another busy year in corporate finance, our client, a leading European investment bank, wishes to recruit additional top-flight corporate-finance executives.

As part of a non-hierarchical team you will advise corporate, government and institutional clients globally on mergers and acquisitions, flotations and listings, equity and debt finance, restructurings, privatisations, takeovers and disposals.

If you work for a leading law firm and want to be part of a dynamic and commercial environment, with a real input in the decision-making process, this could be the opportunity for you. You will be ambitious, committed to moving out of law, have an excellent academic record (preferably with A level mathematics), ideally combined with 1-2 years' ppe in corporate/banking transactions.

In addition to technical expertise, a lively sense of humour and the ability to be an effective team-player are essential. In return, highly-competitive remuneration packages are offered for those who can demonstrate flair and ability.

To discuss this opportunity in complete confidence, please telephone Claire Hine LLB (Hons) or Niru Chandra LLB (Hons). Alternatively, send your CV to either of them at the address below.

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London EC4A 1DY  
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Internet: www.psd.co.uk



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Legal Recruitment

## QD IN-HOUSE LEGAL

## JUNIOR OIL

**Scotland To £Market Rate**  
UK energy company seeks a 1-4 year qualified general company/commercial lawyer for its international division to be based in Scotland specialising in downstream work. Energy experience to date is not pre-requisite but would help. Most important is a genuine enthusiasm for the oil sector. Excellent opportunity to join a high profile company. Ref: TC38068

## EMPLOYEE BENS/SHARE SCHEMES

**To £Comp.**  
International consultancy seeks an experienced employee benefits consultant to join growing Compensation Team. With either a legal or accountancy background you will have between 3-6 years' relevant experience in the executive compensation and share scheme area ideally gained with a top City law firm or accountancy practice. Excellent opportunity to combine your professional skills in a commercial environment. Ref: TC25684

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

**£Various**  
High profile regulatory body seeks ambitious contentious lawyers 1-4 years' ppe preferably with focused ISA experience to join their investigation and prosecution teams to advise on issues arising from membership, disciplinary and enforcement functions. A pro-active and robust personality is essential. Ref: TC40194

## JUNIOR COMMERCIAL

**London To £Excellent**  
Young dynamic limited company currently seeks to replace its only in-house lawyer at the junior level. This is an interesting in-house role for someone looking for broad ranging general company/commercial work with the emphasis on commercial contract drafting and negotiation. Role involves heavy responsibility and liaison at managerial and Board level. Ref: TC40021

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**To £City Rates + Bens**  
The London Headquarters of this new telecommunications company now seeks a 2 year qualified general commercial lawyer with experience of the telecommunications sector. As well as technical ability, the right individual will have a strong commercial outlook and be genuinely interested on the business side. Small, close-knit team and excellent opportunity to be part of a cutting-edge company. Ref: TC39895

## IP/MEDIA

**To £Competitive**  
Major broadcasting house based in Central London seeks two further lawyers to join their business affairs team focusing on both drama and radio. A great opportunity to join a strong, established team where the work is demanding and early responsibility is high. Media lawyers at the 3-5 year level with production experience should apply. Ref: TC39642

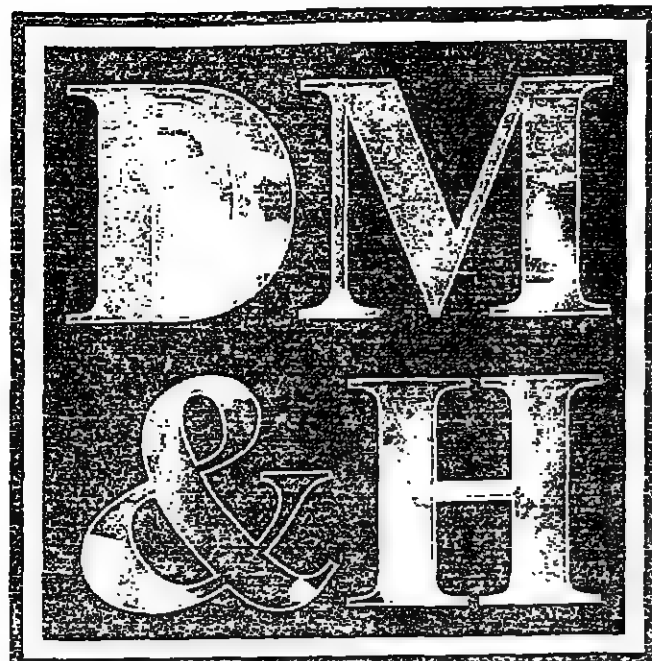
For further information in complete confidence, please contact Rebecca Errington, Michelle McGregor or Jane Maszki (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-357 0912 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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Donne Mileham &amp; Haddock

## SENIOR CORPORATE LAWYER

(Immediate Partnership Prospects)

(5+ YEARS' PQE)

Donne Mileham & Haddock, well established as one of the leading firms in the South East, continues to expand, particularly in the commercial and institutional sectors. There has been a significant increase in the firm's international work.

We are now at a crucial stage of our growth and are seeking to appoint a dynamic, client-oriented corporate lawyer to become an integral part of this high profile commercial client department.

Ideally, you will have at least 5 years' pqr from a leading City/Regional firm with a broad exposure to corporate finance matters. You will have the ability to develop existing contacts and create new opportunities while managing the corporate team.

Work in the corporate team involves a comprehensive range of commercial projects including takeovers, mergers & acquisitions, MBOs, Stock Exchange flotations, franchises and corporate taxation.

At Donne Mileham & Haddock we offer a quality of life which has already attracted ex City lawyers, who now enjoy the benefits of working outside the City while continuing to undertake City type work.

We can offer you responsibility, new opportunities and high quality work coupled with excellent partnership prospects and a competitive remuneration package.



For further information in complete confidence please contact our retained consultants Seamus Hour or Sarah David on 0171-405 6062 (0171-403 5773 or 0181-789 7704 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.



## APPOINTMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT JUDGE

The Lord Chancellor invites applications from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the office of District Judge. Successful applicants will be recommended to the Lord Chancellor for appointment as District Judge to fill vacancies arising on all circuits between 1 April 1998 and 31 March 1999.

Applicants must have held a right of audience in any class of proceedings in the Supreme Court or in all proceedings in the county courts or Magistrates' Courts for a period of 7 years. They should normally be aged between 40 and 60 on 1 April 1998 and have served in the office of Deputy District Judge (not necessarily on the circuit to which they seek assignment as a District Judge) for a period of 2 years, or completed 40 or more sittings, prior to that date.

The Lord Chancellor will appoint the candidates who appear to him to be best qualified regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

An application form, together with a job description and note of the criteria for appointment, information about the expected number and location of vacancies and further information for applicants, is available by telephoning 0171 210 1464 (an answering machine will operate outside normal office hours) or by writing to:

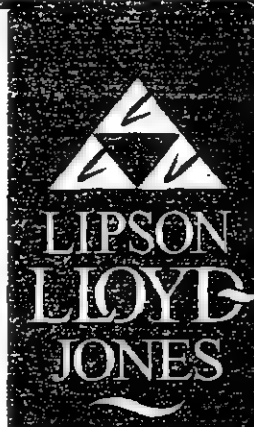
JAD 2 (Applications Unit)  
Lord Chancellor's Department  
Selborne House  
54/60 Victoria Street  
LONDON SW1E 6QW

Completed application forms must be returned by noon on Friday 20 June 1997.

## Can You Deliver?

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>PP LONDON</b> to £90K<br>Corporate City/London based US firms seek lawyers 11Q-5PQE to work on JV, M&As & project finance matters. City candidates only. | <b>PP REGIONS/ABROAD</b> to £70K<br>Banking Paris City firms seek lawyers 2-5PQE to handle trade/asset/project finance. Fluent French and banking exp required. | <b>IN-HOUSE</b> to £55K<br>IT-Tech/IT Banks Commercial lawyer with 2-4PQE and strong IT experience sought by leading co. Top quality work and overseas travel. |
| <b>Co/Commercial</b> to £50K<br>London/Name firm seeks City lawyer 2-5PQE to handle general to go matters within an intimate work environment.              | <b>Shipping Lit</b> to £40K<br>Far East/US niche practice seeks litigators 11Q-5PQE for Hong Kong, Singapore and Shanghai offices to handle dry shipping.       | <b>Cap Markets</b> to £70K<br>City Stockbroker seeks two lawyers, one for a capital markets role, the other for documentation work.                            |
| <b>Construction</b> to £50K<br>London/Seaward leading City/Holborn firms seek solicitors 1-4PQE to handle contentious and/or non-contentious work.          | <b>Corp/Commercial</b> to £40K<br>Midsize East London UK firm seeks lawyers for positions in their Dubai/Abu Dhabi offices. Must have City background.          | <b>IT/Commercial</b> to £40K<br>West's A leading financial institution offers top quality IT commercial work in an idyllic location to lawyers up to 8PQE.     |
| <b>Property</b> to £70K<br>London/Several top ten City/West End firms urgently seek quality property lawyers of all levels. Will pay premium rates.         | <b>Prof Negligence</b> to £25K<br>Midsize National firm seeks HQ lawyer with insurance exp to specialise in defendant professional negligence litigation.       | <b>Corp/Commercial</b> to £50K<br>Surrey/Carroll's leading co seeks corporate/banking lawyers 2-4PQE to join fast moving in-house team.                        |
| <b>NQ</b> to £25K<br>City Top notch firms seek '97 graduates with good academic records for Corporate, IB Trusts and Property positions.                    | <b>Corp/Commercial</b> to £50K<br>Reading/Dynamic firm seeks lawyers 11Q-5PQE to deal with MBOs, mergers & acquisitions and Yellow Book work.                   | <b>Prop Finance</b> to £60K<br>City/London office of overseas bank seeks lawyer with 3-4PQE. Trusts experience an advantage. Marketing skills essential.       |

Ten years at the top of the legal recruitment tree has equipped us with a wealth of knowledge and contacts in the legal world in London, the regions and abroad. We are therefore uniquely placed to anticipate trends in the market and provide our candidates with well-informed, practical and unbiased career advice. Call one of our consultants now.



For further information contact:

Lucy Boyd  
Jon Garrett  
Lynne McCarroll  
Deborah Knowles  
All lawyers

**LIPSON LLOYD-JONES**  
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Tel: 0171 600 1690  
Fax: 0171 600 1972

## construction

city

to £65,000

Either way you win. Whether your experience in construction is contentious or non-contentious, two established and expanding departments can offer attractive forward tracks. A foundation of 3 years pqr (and realistically a ceiling of 5 years) will take you into the senior ranks of these departments with scope to get your feet firmly under the table prior to the push for partnership. If on the non-contentious side your experience should ideally have a bias towards major projects and give you an overview in both the UK and international arenas. Contact Sue Heslin Ref: 11289

## corporate

hong kong excellent pkge/partnership

Through our association with Swift Legal, a leading Hong Kong consultancy, we have instructions for a high profile appointment with a niche corporate law practice. This is mainstream corporate work with a demonstrably successful team. Ideally about 7 years pqr, you need the commitment to career development in this challenging environment referred in the generous package and prospects on offer. Contact Stephen Watkins Ref: 11297

## insolvency

wc2

to £50,000

Medium sized commercial firm with highly regarded corporate department and expanding insolvency workload needs insolvency assistant with around 2-4 years' corporate and insolvency experience. Mix of work includes corporate insolvencies, banking, restructurings, voluntary arrangements, receiverships and liquidations in growing group headed by one of London's leading insolvency practitioners. Contact Andrew Horne Browne Ref: 11277

## eu/competition

city

to £60,000

Prominent City firm with offices in Brussels and Paris has a thriving and successful practice in monopoly and merger enquiries, investigations under EU/UK competition rules, advice on general issues of EU law and the regulation of media and broadcasting. You have up to around 4 years' first rate experience and a desire for a challenging and wide-ranging workload, ready for the career move. Contact Stephen Watkins Ref: 10628

hays richard owen, kingsway house, 103 kingsway london wc2b 6qx  
tel 0171 430 2349 fax 0171 831 2536

Hays Richard Owen

## HEAD OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Oil &amp; Gas Exploration &amp; Production

Oryx UK Energy Company is a subsidiary of the Dallas based Oryx Energy Company, one of the largest independent oil and gas companies in the world. In the UK Oryx operates the Ninian, Hutton, Murchison and Lyell fields. Its interests embrace production, exploration and transportation.

Oryx UK Energy Company has recently relocated its head office to Aberdeen where it now has an opportunity for an experienced oil industry lawyer to take responsibility for the legal function.

Reporting to the Managing Director, you will provide legal expertise on all aspects of the company's business. You will take a leading role in significant commercial negotiations and provide advice to senior management. You will be assisted by another legal professional.

You are a solicitor or barrister with substantial oil industry experience. Your thorough knowledge of the commercial and legal principles applicable to agreements encountered in exploration, appraisal, development and production are complemented by excellent drafting and negotiating skills.

A key element for success will be the establishment of effective relationships at senior levels based on respect for the quality of your advice and the perception of you as a facilitator of business.

For a confidential discussion concerning this appointment telephone either David Jones or Barbara Digby on 0118 946 3030.

Alternatively, write to them with career and remuneration details at Digby Jay Jones, Oil & Gas - Search - Selection, The Atrium Court, Apex Plaza, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 1AX. Fax: 0118 946 5115.



## YOUR NEXT PORT OF CALL?

COMMERCIAL LAWYER

EXCELLENT PACKAGE



The Mersey Dock and Harbour Company

The Mersey Dock and Harbour Company is the second largest port group in the UK, operating in Liverpool (the most successful free trade zone in Britain) and in Smeeth and Chatham in South East England. They also operate one of the UK's largest port management consultancies, and are involved in coastal shipping operations.

Increased turnover has led to a policy of substantial investment including a proposed new berth at Liverpool, a new berth and coo store facilities at Smeeth and ongoing development of existing

premises. The Head Office, based in Liverpool, is seeking to recruit a Commercial Lawyer, with extensive business skills, to work within the Legal Department, reporting to the Director of Legal Services.

A solicitor, with between 2-4 years PQE, you will be working with two other lawyers in a department focused on the key commercial aspects of the business. A good team player, you will nevertheless enjoy considerable responsibility and autonomy. Along with contract negotiation and drafting, you will become involved in such areas as joint ventures, employment and commercial and shipping disputes. You will need, therefore, a real desire to increase your range of skills and to immerse yourself into the culture of the

organisation. The role will also involve liaison with external solicitors where appropriate.

For further details please contact Allison Munro or Katrina Paget, In-House Legal, Joseph's Well, Hanover Walk, Park Lane, Leeds LS3 1AB. Tel: 0113 243 6945. Fax: 0113 245 6347. Tel: 01943 851285. (Evenings and weekends). E-mail: hwggroup@hwgroup.co.uk



## Media Lawyers

Channel 5 invites applications for the following posts:-

1. Business Affairs. The role involves the negotiation and drafting of agreements for commissioned and acquired programming, copyright and rights issues generally, research into legislation affecting the industry and the drafting and negotiation of commercial agreements.
2. Business Affairs/Compliance. A mixed role. The compliance team monitors all commissioned programming and provides support to a team of viewers for acquired programming. In ensuring compliance with Channel 5's ITC obligations. Experience of defamation either in a contentious or non-contentious capacity is essential.

In both cases, sound IT experience and drafting skills are essential together with the ability to work confidently as part of a team supporting colleagues at all levels of the business. Applications for a part time role would be welcomed from those with highly relevant experience either in industry or private practice.

Please apply in writing, enclosing a CV and details of current salary to Carmel Swift, Channel 5 Broadcasting, 22 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LY. Closing date for applications is Friday 30th May 1997.

Channel 5 is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

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## Commercial Lawyers

Solicitors - Two Years PQE

London

To £50,000, Car, Benefits

Strategically important new appointments in the UK commercial and legal services team of a global business and technology consultancy firm which is the world market leader. Superb career opportunity for outstanding young Solicitors with experience of large IT or outsourcing contracts.

Reporting to the Director of Commercial and Legal Services, the Commercial Managers provide effective pre and post contract advice, guidance and support to line management at executive level.

The roles focus on protecting and optimising the legal and commercial interests of the firm by reviewing, drafting, negotiating and controlling very high value, complex, long term commercial contracts with a significant IT/outsourcing bias.

Commercial Managers are responsible for ensuring business needs are met and facilitating the delivery of sound and profitable contracts both in the UK and internationally. There will be considerable freedom and

autonomy, with scope for innovation and creativity.

Candidates must be intellectually able and assertive solicitors with a minimum of two years PQE gained in commercial private practice, management consultancy, industry or commerce.

Experience must include close involvement in the legal and commercial aspects of very large outsourcing transactions or IT contracts on behalf of the service provider. Understanding of deal shaping, IPH or knowledge capital protection is important.

Appointed candidates will have key responsibilities at the highest level with prospects for outstanding career and income growth in this very prestigious firm.

Please submit a comprehensive career resume including salary details and quoting Reference 11515/TT. Confidentiality is strictly guaranteed.



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**CORPORATE/BANKING & FINANCE**

If you're GOING HOME, you need to ensure that you return to a firm guaranteed to provide you with the challenge of the world class transactions you came over here to find.

If you're GOING AWAY, you must be certain that you join a firm with an international reputation for excellence which expands your horizons.

Whatever your plans, we'd like you to join us. Arthur Robinson & Hedderwicks is a full service commercial firm and one of Australia's most respected law firms, with over 400 employees in Melbourne alone. Part of the Allens Arthur Robinson Group, it enjoys a network of offices unrivalled in Australia and the Pacific Rim (and there are opportunities for travel accordingly). Its client base comprises many of Australia's leading and highest profile corporations; its partners sit on many of their boards.

We are interested in lawyers qualified in Australia, New Zealand or the United Kingdom with strong academic backgrounds and excellent experience. We pay leading rates and provide relocation assistance.



For further information in complete confidence please contact Deborah Dalgleish or Michelle McGregor on 0171-405 6062 (0181-520 6539 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394. This recruitment is being handled on an exclusive basis and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to Quarry Dougal.

**SOLICITORS 4-6 YEARS' PQE**

While many commercial firms of our size are turning away from the private client, charities and trust work, we take the opposite view: we not only remain but are increasingly committed to these areas of our practice and have gained an excellent reputation for the quality and depth of our work.

**PRIVATE CLIENT/TAX**

The innovative tax planning expertise of our private client team has resulted in increasing national and international recognition. This has fuelled the continued rapid growth of our client base of wealthy individuals in the UK and abroad.

In response to this, we seek a solicitor to work with the existing team in devising and implementing tax planning strategies for our clients. Significant experience of onshore and offshore trusts, wills and tax planning is essential. Bright junior assistants with potential to develop quickly are also encouraged to apply.

These are key positions in one of London's most exciting private client departments. The remuneration package and scope for career development will reflect this.

To apply, please write, enclosing a CV, to Fiona McLaren, Personnel Director, Speechly Bircham, Bouverie House, 154 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HX.

**SPEECHLY  
BIRCHAM**  
SOLICITORS

**CHARITY LAW**

Working in all aspects of charity formation, organisation, administration and tax matters, our charity group has rapidly become acknowledged as one of the leading providers of legal services to this sector. Clients include national and international charities, NHS Trusts as well as a number of significant charitable trusts and foundations.

We currently need to recruit an additional solicitor whose expertise in charity law and client skills will allow him/her to play a key role and make a significant contribution to the development of the practice.



**Titmuss Sainer Dechert**

**HEAD OF BANKING**

Our Banking Group is responsible for giving transactional support and advice to several well-known lenders, as well as borrowers, on a wide range of finance matters.

At Titmuss Sainer Dechert, as a result of our union with the US law firm Dechert Price & Rhoads, we enjoy all the benefits of:

- Working in a medium sized full service City firm.
- The support of over 500 lawyers in ten offices in the US and Europe.
- Doing high quality UK and international work.

Now we need someone to lead our Banking Group through its next stage of development. The ideal candidate will be a bright and ambitious senior assistant or young partner in an established banking practice, who is ready to take on the challenge of team management and practice development. Technical know-how, marketing flair and leadership skills are prerequisites.



If you want to find out more, please contact Greg Abrahams or Alison Jacobs in complete confidence on 0171 405 6062 (0171 731 5699 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171 831 6394.

**HEAD OF LEGAL  
AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES**

**M I D L A N D S**

Created from an MBO more than six years ago, our client, a market leader in the plastic packaging industry, employs in excess of 3,000 staff both in the UK and across Europe; with an enviable blue chip customer base, turnover has increased dramatically in the last year following a major acquisition and is now in excess of £200 million across eight countries.

Due to the retirement of an original member of the MBO team, a rare opportunity has arisen for the right candidate to contribute directly to decision-making and achieving business objectives.

Reporting directly to the Chief Executive, this role will demand a high degree of autonomy and an appreciation of the commercial demands of industry.

Responsibility will include the review and implementation of recommendations in collaboration with Directors and Senior Managers across a diverse range of legal matters, including acquisitions and disposals, property, contracts, employment and pension law, intellectual property rights, one-off project based tasks and Company Secretarial and Administrative issues.

Candidates will have no less than 4 years' relevant experience, either in private practice or industry (possibly within a manufacturing environment); be confident operating at senior level, with a hands on practical approach and be capable of influencing others. A European language would be advantageous although not essential. This is a rare opportunity with significant potential for personal growth and development in the progressive manufacturing environment of plastic packaging.

Please write, enclosing your CV, to Carolyn Jeffs or Tracy Haran, Wellman-Smith, 26-28 Bridesmith Gate, Nottingham NG1 2GQ. Alternatively, for an initial discussion in confidence, please telephone on 0115 941 5111 (evenings and weekends on 0116 287 8731).



Nottingham Birmingham **WELLMAN SMITH** Leeds Manchester London MEMBER OF PEARCE  
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The company is an established plc offering a sophisticated range of support services to the Construction, Engineering and Advertising industries. Turnover exceeds £50m per annum with 60 retail outlets in the UK and planned expansion in Europe and the Far East.

This new position, reporting to the Group Finance Director, is required to manage a growing property portfolio and other key responsibilities include Insurance, Pensions administration and Company Secretarial matters.

Candidates should be educated to degree level, ideally a qualified Chartered Secretary or Lawyer with 2 to 3 years' experience of property management and pensions administration within a similar multi-site commercial environment.

Success in the role will be achieved through expert knowledge practically applied, proven negotiating skills, common sense and the ability to react to the ever-changing priorities in a highly competitive business.

Send your written applications and a comprehensive c.v., quoting reference no. VHT/1 care of Vernon Laines, Riley Advertising, 4 Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London EC4A 3EN.

Closing date: 2nd June 1997.

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**EXCITING PROPERTY AND CONSTRUCTION OPENINGS**

You know us for our construction expertise. But with the help of our clients we're expanding, taking in new disciplines and areas of expertise as more people realise the attraction of our practice. We've added corporate, now we're building on property.

The work is here. Our corporate and construction clients produce high quality property instructions, nationally and internationally, as do locally based businesses. We're flexible too on experience. We are looking for:-

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**

A 4 plus year qualified property lawyer who is ambitious or a well established partner looking for a change.

**CONSTRUCTION LAWYER**

A 2-5 year qualified lawyer with strong construction litigation and arbitration experience, ideally with some non-contentious exposure.

Either way, we're looking for people who'll share our enthusiasm. People who want to help build a practice group and who are committed to achieving dynamic growth without compromising on quality.

On offer is the chance to join an experienced and motivated team which is already making a name for itself and with a competitive London package.



To find out more, please contact our retained consultants Alison Jacobs or Sarah David on 0171-405 6062 (0181-789 7704 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Dougal and all direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.



## CLEARY, GOTTlieb, STEEN & HAMILTON

Our London office, which was established in 1971, is primarily involved in international finance and M&A work of all kinds and advises multinational companies, investment and commercial banks and other participants in the world financial markets.

We are seeking English qualified solicitors with between 2-4 years' post qualification experience in banking, tax or capital markets work to join our English team.

The London office currently has approximately 30 lawyers, who are qualified in a number of jurisdictions, principally in New York and England.



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Seamus Hour or Kate Sutcliffe on 0171-405-6062 (0171-403-5727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831-6394.

## SHORT-TERM CONTRACTS GIVING YOU GREATER FLEXIBILITY

### RESIDENTIAL CONVEYANCING

Independent, medium-sized firm seeks a senior legal executive or 2-3 year qualified solicitor to help clear a backlog of work. Applicants will be reporting on mortgage offers, dealing with post-completion matters and other general day-to-day correspondence. Contract will be for 2-3 months to start immediately. Ref: 40030

### PRIVATE CLIENT

Major City firm seeks an experienced private client lawyer to work on an unsupervised basis. Candidates must have experience of trusts and personal tax and have worked in a similar environment. Contract to start as soon as possible and may become permanent. Ref: 40033

### CORPORATE

Senior corporate assistant sought by this small niche practice. Contract will be open-ended and candidates will be dealing with both domestic and international work. Ref: 40133

### PLAINTIFF PERSONAL INJURY

Experienced solicitor sought by this national firm for one of their regional offices. Contract will be for 3 months. Applicants must have up-to-date plaintiff personal injury experience. Ref: 40142

### CAPITAL MARKETS

Investment house seeks a solicitor/barrister with around 2 years' exp to assist with a heavy workload. Candidates should ideally have experience of master agreements, ISDA documentation and repos. Ref: 37953

### EMPLOYMENT

Leading engineering/construction company based in the Home Counties seeks a solicitor/barrister with 3+ years' experience to assist senior solicitor in department. Experience of industrial tribunal advocacy would be advantageous and contract could become permanent. Ref: 39545

### PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE

Large legal department of finance house based in the Midlands needs a 4-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister. Contract is for 3-6 months, and requires specialist expertise of professional negligence against solicitors and valuers. Ref: 39592

### COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Small, but well regarded City firm, requires a 2-8 year qualified solicitor with a broad base of experience including landlord and tenant matters. Contract is for about 3 months whilst they pursue a permanent search. Ref: 39493

### NON FEE-EARNING

Banking lawyer sought by the London office of a leading American law firm to assist with updating precedents and in particular with the drafting of finance procedures. Position could be part or full-time. Ref: 39613

### EMERGING MARKETS

London based investment bank seeks a solicitor/barrister with a minimum of 3 years' experience in emerging markets to join the legal team for a 3-6 month contract. Experience required must include funded loans, securities and repos. Immediate start. Ref: 39709



For further information please call Nicky Rathford-Jones or Emma Anderson on 0171-405 6062 (0171-550 0682 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyers, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

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## An Opportunity in Banking Law Field of specialisation: accounting and banking supervisory law Berlin-based

The

## Association of German Public Sector Banks

is looking for a jurist specialising in banking law. Applicants should currently be working for a British or American bank; have experience in British/US and German law, mainly in the field of accounting and international banking supervision. German should be native language or first foreign language. Applications from women candidates are particularly encouraged. Age: around 40. First based in Bonn, later (after 1st January 1999) in Berlin.

The Association of German Public Sector Banks is one of the German banking industry associations, with offices in Berlin, Bonn and Brussels. It represents over 50 banks, which together account for roughly one-quarter of the combined balance sheet of all German banks.

Please respond by calling Dr Bernd Luethje at +49-2 28-81 92 200. (Bonn) during office hours; Monday to Friday (don't send written application). Evenings or weekends: call +49-21 04-5 34 48 (Mettmann) at a reasonable hour.

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Applicants should possess a good degree in law from a common law jurisdiction as well as a postgraduate degree in law, be capable of teaching basic common law subjects, and have an interest in legal research. Knowledge of Hong Kong law would be preferred and applications from candidates with competence to teach commercial law and/or criminal law subjects would be especially welcome. An indication of the applicant's teaching and research interests should be provided in the application. Applicants for appointment as Associate Professor should have a strong publication record and have demonstrated a commitment to teaching.

Applicants should specify whether they are applying for Associate Professor or Assistant Professor.

Annual salaries (attracting 15% (taxable) terminal gratuity) are on the following scales, with the starting salary depending on qualifications and experience: Associate Professor HK\$759,780 - HK\$1,020,680 (9 points) (in the grade of Senior Lecturer: approx. \$60,900 - \$81,000); Assistant Professor HK\$490,060 - HK\$616,960 (11 points) (in the grade of Lecturer: approx. \$38,800 - \$64,800). \*An appointee with annual salary at HK\$653,460 (approx. \$51,900) or above may be considered for the title of Associate Professor. Sterling equivalents as at May 13, 1997.

At current rates, salaries tax will not exceed 15% of gross income. Leave, medical benefits, an allowance for children's education in Hong Kong, and, in most cases, a rental allowance are provided, the last at a charge of a percentage of salary, currently 7.5%.

Further particulars and application forms can be obtained either on WWW at <http://www.hku.hk>; or from the Appointments Unit, Registry, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (Fax (852) 2540 6735/2568 2058; E-mail: APTUNIT@REG.HKU.HK). Closes 31 July 1997.

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Applicants, male or female, should be over 35 years of age, and qualified as an Advocate, Barrister or Solicitor, with at least 10 years' practical experience, of which a significant period (of the order of 5 years) should have been spent in full-time legislative drafting.

Jersey is a self-governing Island with its own elected legislature (called "the States of Jersey") of politically independent members. The Island's Government consists of Committees composed of elected members of the States supported by the Jersey Civil Service. All Committees have statutory authority to promote legislation, both principal and subordinate.

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The appointment will be for a contract of 3 or 5 years' duration.

Applications forms and job descriptions are available from Angela Rayson, Law Clerk, Law Draftsman's Office, States Greffe, Royal Square, St. Helier, Jersey, JE1 1DD, Channel Islands. Telephone: (01534) 582816.

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The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Wt	Wt	Wt
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-12	0
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14	0
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+36	0
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0	+1	0
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+31	0
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+17	0
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-7	0
10402	S Glavin	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+4	0
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0	+8	0
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	0	+30	0
10601	D Kvarine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10	0
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-28	0
10603	F Grodas	Chelsea	3.00	+5	-4	0
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	-42	0
10702	J Filan	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	-41	0
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	0	-8	0
10804	M Poom	Derby County	1.00	0	-8	0
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	-12	0
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	-12	0
10903	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.50	-2	-2	0
11001	I Westwater	Durham	0.50	-59	-59	0
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0	-36	0
11102	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	-5	0
11201	G Rousset	Hibernian	1.50	0	-30	0
11301	J Leighton	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	-32	0
11401	D Lekovic	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5	0
11501	M Beeny	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5	0
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	0
11503	N Martin	Leeds United	2.50	0	+40	0
11601	K Pook	Leeds United	1.00	0	-19	0
11602	K Kallier	Leeds United	1.00	0	-20	0
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	0	+10	0
11702	T Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	0
11703	J Nielsen	Liverpool	1.00	0	0	0
11801	P Schmelschel	Manchester United	5.00	0	+8	0
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	+2	-2	0
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-20	0
11902	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	-3	-8	0
11903	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	-3	0
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0	-20	0
12101	S Hogg	Newcastle United	4.00	0	-18	0
12102	P Smolcek	Newcastle United	2.00	0	-49	0
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-49	-49	0
12202	A Fattis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	-8	0
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-78	0
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	+29	0
12402	A Dillibe	Rangers	3.50	0	+7	0
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	-15	0
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	-28	0
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	0.25	0	+2	0
12602	N Moss	Southampton	1.00	0	+7	0
12804	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	0	+7	0
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	0	-36	0
11803	T Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0	-11	0
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	-11	0
12802	E Barsden	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	-20	0
12901	N Mickleth	West Ham United	2.00	0	-20	0
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+2	0
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-4	0



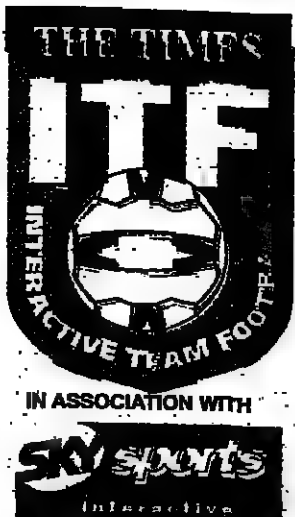
Eddie Newton celebrates scoring for Chelsea, against Middlesbrough, in the FA Cup final but who will be winning in ITF?

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Points
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0 +32
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 +3
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 -3
30404	N Mariner	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 +8
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0 +40
30502	M McKay	Celtic	1.50	0 +44
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0 +22
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	0 0
30505	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0 +4
30601	M Duggan	Chelsea	2.50	0 +1
30602	F Laboul	Chelsea	2.50	+3 +36
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	+4 +4
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0 +3
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0 +5
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0 +18
30701	L Delah	Coventry City	2.00	0 +5
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0 +2
30703	G Green	Coventry City	1.50	0 -2
30704	A Evtushok	Coventry City	1.50	0 +1
30801	I Strimac	Derby County	2.50	0 -10
30802	D Westall	Derby County	1.00	0 0
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0 -4
30804	J Laurson	Derby County	1.00	0 +10
30901	M Carron	Dundee United	0.50	0 -5
30902	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	0 +52
31001	M Miller	Durfermline	0.75	0 -19
31002	I Den Blom	Durfermline	0.75	0 -19
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0 +11
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.00	0 +8
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	0 +30
31201	D McPherson	Hearns	1.00	0 +34
31202	P Ritchie	Hearns	0.50	0 +4
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.75	0 +9
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0 -3
31303	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0 -19
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	0 +17
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	0 +12
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	0 +42
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0 +2
31503	L Radcliffe	Leeds United	0.50	0 0
31504	J Pennington	Leeds United	2.00	0 +23
31505	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	0 +23
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0 +17
31602	J Werts	Leicester City	1.00	0 +8
31603	P Kamear	Leicester City	1.00	0 +7
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	0 +10
31701	P Babic	Leicester City	1.50	0 +10
31702	P Babic	Liverpool	3.50	0 +24
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0 +29
31704	N Rios	Liverpool	3.00	0 +12
31705	D Matoso	Liverpool	1.00	0 +26
31706	B T Kvarme	Liverpool	2.00	0 +3
31801	G Pailster	Manchester United	3.50	0 +11
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0 +39
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	0 +25
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1 +8
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -8
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -10
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0 -4
31905	G Feeta	Middlesbrough	1.50	-2 +6
32001	E Martin	Motherwell	1.50	0 -1
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0 +24
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	0 +28
32102	S Horvey	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +7
32103	C Coope	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +32
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0 +1
32202	S Chellie	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0 +9
32203	S Chellie	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0 -5
32301	D Craig	Raith Rovers	0.50	0 -13
32302	G Mitchell	Raith Rovers	0.50	0 -11
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0 +56
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0 +24
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	2.50	0 +40
32404	G Pettit	Rangers	2.50	0 +18
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0 +15
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0 +25
32503	B Lingham	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0 0
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0 -18
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	0 +7
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0 +3
32604	C Lundqvist	Southampton	1.50	0 -9
32605	U van Gool	Southampton	1.50	0 -9
32701	A McVitie	Sunderland	1.00	0 +12
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	0 +14
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	0 +18
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0 +22
32802	J Scallies	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 +7
32803	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0 +17
32804	K Mubutu	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0 0
32805	N Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 -6
32806	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0 +4
32901	S Bilic	West Ham United	2.50	0 +17
32902	M Ripley	West Ham United	2.50	0 +10
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	0 +6
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0 +7
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0 +10
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0 -2
33002	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0 0
33003	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0 +16
33004	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0 +16
33005	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0 0

40408	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0 +
40409	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0
40501	P McStay	Celtic	3.00	0 +2
40502	A Thom	Celtic	2.50	0 +3
40503	S Donnelly	Celtic	2.50	0 +3
40504	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	0 +2
40505	P Di Canio	Celtic	3.00	0 +3
40506	R Hamah	Celtic	1.50	0 +1
40507	P O'Donnell	Celtic	2.50	0 +1
40601	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	0 +
40602	D White	Chelsea	3.00	0 +2
40604	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	0 +8
40605	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	0 +2
40607	R Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50	0
40608	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	0 +8
40609	J Morris	Chelsea	2.00	0 +
40610	P Hughes	Chelsea	2.50	0 +3
40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0 +3
41501	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	0 +6
41502	E Jones	Coventry City	2.00	0 +3
40703	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0 +3
40704	P Talfer	Coventry City	1.50	0 +3
40705	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0 +3
40708	M Ischia	Coventry City	0.50	0
40707	W Salado	Coventry City	0.50	0
40708	M O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50	0 +
40801	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.00	0 +5
40802	P Simpson	Derby County	1.50	0 +
40803	R van der Laan	Derby County	1.50	0 +3
40804	D Powell	Derby County	1.00	0 +2
40805	S Flynn	Derby County	0.75	0 +1
40806	K Wright	Derby County	0.50	0 +5
40809	C Daily	Derby County	1.50	0 +3
40901	G McSwegen	Dundee United	2.00	0 +3
40902	R Winters	Dundee United	1.50	0 +3
40903	G Johnson	Dundee United	1.00	0
42003	J Doan	Dundee United	1.00	0
40904	J McNally	Dundee United	0.75	0 +2
40904	D Bown	Dundee United	0.75	0 +2
40905	A Benneker	Dundee United	0.50	0 +
41001	H French	Durham	1.00	0 +4
41002	C Robertson	Durham	1.00	0 +3
41003	A Smith	Durham	0.75	0 +5
41004	D Fleming	Durham	0.50	0 +3
41102	G Speed	Everton	1.50	0 +8
41104	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0 +3
41108	T Grant	Everton	0.50	0 +1
41108	C Thomson	Everton	2.00	0 +1
41202	A McManus	Everton	1.50	0 +
41303	S Fulton	Hibernian	1.00	0 +3
41302	P McGinlay	Hibernian	1.50	0 +4
41303	G Lowe	Hibernian	0.75	0 +
41305	I Cameron	Hibernian	0.75	0 +1
41401	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	1.00	0 +2
41402	J McInerney	Kilmarnock	1.00	0 +4
41403	M Reid	Kilmarnock	0.75	0 +
41404	J Louchlin	Kilmarnock	0.50	0 +1
41502	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	0 +8
41503	A Gray	Leeds United	2.50	0 +
41504	C Palmer	Leeds United	2.00	0 +3
41505	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	0 +3
41506	L Sharpe	Leeds United	3.50	0 +7
41508	I Harte	Leeds United	1.00	0 +1
41507	M Ford	Leeds United	0.50	0 +1
41508	A Cossens	Leeds United	0.50	0 +1
41510	N Jackson	Leeds United	1.00	0 +1
41601	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	0 +3
41602	G Purser	Leicester City	2.00	0 +3
41603	S Taylor	Leicester City	2.00	0 +2
41604	J Lawrence	Leicester City	0.25	0 +
40806	M Izett	Leicester City	1.00	0 +4
41701	S McManis	Liverpool	7.00	0 +5
41702	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	0 +4
41703	J Redknapp	Liverpool	4.00	0 +3
41704	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	0 +5
41705	M Thomas	Liverpool	2.50	0 +3
41706	M Kennedy	Liverpool	1.00	0
41707	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	0 +3
41801	R Gillespie	Manchester United	7.00	0 +4
41802	R Blackham	Manchester United	4.00	0 +2
41803	D Beckham	Manchester United	4.00	0 +2
41804	N Butt	Manchester United	3.50	0 +3
41806	B McClair	Manchester United	1.50	0 +1
41807	T Cooke	Manchester United	1.00	0
41808	B Thornley	Manchester United	1.00	0 +1
41809	S Davies	Manchester United	0.50	0
41810	J Cruyff	Manchester United	2.50	0 +1
41811	K Poborsky	Manchester United	4.00	0 +3
41901	Emerson	Middlesbrough	3.50	0 +4
41902	Juninho	Middlesbrough	3.00	0 +1
41903	C Higgin	Middlesbrough	2.00	0 +3
41905	A Moore	Middlesbrough	1.00	0 +3
41906	R Muxton	Middlesbrough	1.00	0 +3
41908	C Liddle	Middlesbrough	0.50	0 +6
41909	B Rolman	Middlesbrough	0.50	0 +1
41910	S Stamp	Middlesbrough	0.50	0 +1
42001	C McNeil	Motherwell	1.00	0 +1
42002	J Philbin	Motherwell	1.00	0 +1
42004	J Hendry	Motherwell	0.75	0 +4
42005	S Vaidzys	Motherwell	3.00	0 +1
42101	R Givins	Newcastle United	5.00	0 +2
42102	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.50	0 +2
42103	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.50	0 +2
42104	D Batty	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +2
42105	L Clark	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +2



# Kilmarnock last stop on the trail of £50,000 ITF game



AS THE domestic seasons stagger to their conclusion, two more prizes with be decided, barring a replay, on Saturday: the Tennents Scottish Cup final and the Interactive Team Football game.

The cup final, at Ibrox, is between Kilmarnock and Falkirk, but, as Falkirk are in the first division of the Scottish League, their players are ineligible for ITF, so our managers who are looking to make late transfers will only be interested in those from Kilmarnock.

The race for the £50,000 prize for the overall winner of ITF could not be closer, with Turners Earners 5 and Sophie And Sam leading the table with 822 points each, followed by Edmo Utd with 805.

While those managers will be looking north of the border for help, Mr K. Charlton, of Faversham, Kent, can thank four English-based Europeans for winning him the weekly prize. The FA Cup Final may, to the neutrals, have resembled a game of spot the Englishman, but the performances of Frode Grodas, of Norway, and Dan Petrescu, of Romania, for Chelsea, and Juninho, of Denmark, for Middlesbrough, earned Revelation 19 £250.

Mr Charlton's team is:

**Goalkeeper**  
F Grodas (Chelsea)

**Full backs**  
D Petrescu (Chelsea)  
D Robertson (Rangers)

**Central defenders**  
R Montgomerie (Kilmarnock)  
M Reilly (Kilmarnock)

**Midfield players**  
P di Canio (Celtic)  
N Ardley (Wimbledon)  
M Pembroke (Sheff Wed)  
Juninho (Middlesbrough)



Grodas holds aloft the FA Cup on Saturday. His clean sheet for Chelsea was also a winner for Revelation 19



**Strikers**  
D Jackson (Hibernian)  
M Beck (Middlesbrough)  
**Manager**  
A Wenger (Arsenal)

You can still use the ITF transfer system, even though the regular transfer system has ended for the season, which allows you to change up

to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01552-493 122.

## HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scores goal	1pt
Saves goal	1pt	All players	1pt
Saves penalty		Appearances	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Scores hat-trick	9pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	3pts
Saves goal		Team wins	1pt
Midfield player	3pts	Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Saves goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper		Booked	
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	
All players		Manager	
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	
* must have played for 75 minutes in the match			
† must have played for 15 minutes in the com			

\* must have played for 75 minutes in the match  
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

## Last chance for transfers



There is still time to make a last-minute transfer to your Interactive football team. The Tennents Scottish cup final marks the end of the ITF competition. The points scored in this match will decide your final position in the 1996-97 ITF league. The Times Interactive will be inviting some of the top entrants to Football Football, the London soccer-themed restaurant, to celebrate the end of the season. Among them will be the overall winner who will receive £50,000, the second prizewinner who gets £10,000 and third-place winner who receives £2,500.



See Sky Text, page 118

## HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £25 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 50p per minute. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out	Player code
Club	<input type="text"/>
Player in	<input type="text"/>
Club	<input type="text"/>

## THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos Team (Player's name) Pts				Pos Team (Player's name) Pts			
1=	Turners Earners 5	(P Turner)	822	110=	Alice	(I Pigeon)	687
2=	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	822	111=	Fenden United	(E Cowen)	687
3=	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	805	112=	Northern Lights	(C Wright)	687
4=	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	800	113=	The Winners Vw	(Nikram Wadhwa)	687
5=	Turner Earners 3	(P Turner)	796	114=	Team C	(A Love)	686
6=	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	792	115=	Murphy Magicians	(M Macmillan)	686
7=	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	791	116=	What Ford Splash	(N P Lewis)	686
8=	Brain's Team	(B Brown)	788	117=	Ravn's Dream Team	(Morten Ravn)	685
9=	Daggers	(V Cox)	785	118=	Nobby 7	(K Hughes)	685
10=	Nobby	(J Brown)	781	119=	Wireless Wonders	(J Brown)	685
11=	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	778	120=	Invincible Undecided	(Mary Ann Kennedy)	684
12=	Teddy Three	(B Bear)	771	121=	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	684
13=	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	770	122=	Inter The Waffel	(Hyle)	683
14=	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	769	123=	The Far Side	(M Ward)	682
15=	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	768	124=	Come On You Rocks	(C Hadfield)	682
16=	Dour Rangers 3	(I Clayton)	765	125=	Shot On Sight 2	(Lynne Hloma)	681
17=	Pin Ups Two	(P Tustler)	765	126=	Netless Heroes	(I Fox)	681
18=	12 Angry Men	(Daryl Cook)	764	127=	Back In Bristol	(D Stone)	680
19=	A	(R Calder)	764	128=	Demolition Men	(J Murray)	680
20=	Bobs Boys 2	(Mrs E Wells)	760	129=	John Hunt Taunton A	(Mary Ann Kennedy)	680
21=	Isane	(PJ Ward)	759	130=	Simba's Dream	(Ms CA Kitchen)	679
22=	Nonchalant A F C 3	(J Brown)	751	131=	Star Chamber	(M Macmillan)	679
23=	Nobby 22	(A Boyland)	750	132=	Diplomatic Risk	(G Prichard)	679
24=	Ab 4	(T Blythe)	750	133=	Byzantine Bricks	(S Houghton)	679
25=	Blythe Spartans	(J Brown)	748	134=	The Loggers	(C Wright)	678
26=	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	748	135=	The Instructions	(K Curran)	678
27=	Beaston Celtic	(Garry McGovern)	748	136=	Guy's Next Bests	(Guy Bonello)	678
28=	Widmarsh FC	(M Baser)	747	137=	Kinky Imports	(Scott Fraser)	678
29=	Jabberwocky	(PA Amos)	739	138=	Triple Top Tan	(P Bailey)	677
30=	1970 Jr FC	(J Ross)	739	139=	Mars FC	(M Babar)	677
31=	Patrick Bilbao 3	(J Hamilton)	734	140=	Vat 3	(K Howson)	677
32=	Beto 1998	(Jan Bithell)	732	141=	Burg Hol	(Graham Watson)	676
33=	Turners Earners 1	(P Turner)	730	142=	Daniels Seichers	(V Cox)	675
34=	Midfield	(R Lockyer)	729	143=	Def Con 3	(M Peck)	675
35=	Uni Boys Utd 1	(J Mills)	728	144=	J D 3	(J Donaldson)	674
36=	Storn	(J Brown)	728	145=	St Bartholomew	(J M Bartholomew)	674
37=	Nobby 21	(Alastair Kirkwood)	727	146=	N S T Monticome	(J Staszewicz)	674
38=	Fair Academicals	(Richard Rowe)	726	147=	Infinity George	(M Robson)	674
39=	Gestalt	(J Brown)	725	148=	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	674
40=	John Hunt Taunton F	(M Jones)	724	149=	Grimmers Army	(S Gray)	673
41=	Nobby 33	(P Ford)	724	150=	Schoko Zoo	(Paul Roach)	673
42=	Jones Boys 5	(P Turner)	724	151=	I Hate Alan Hansen	(V Cox)	672
43=	Mean Machine	(R Calder)	724	152=	S Gail Taunton A	(S Gail)	672
44=	Turners Earners 4	(A Bates)	721	153=	Animals	(L Clark)	672
45=	Bobs Boys 4	(M Ward)	719	154=	Patel One	(P Patel)	672
46=	Jlb Sports	(DR J Bradshaw)	718	155=	Cookies Gunners	(S Cook)	672
47=	Inter The Stand	(D Santon)	718	156=	Jack's Nightmares	(J Lane)	672
48=	Orvieto Classico	(G Wales)	718	157=	Wessack	(M Huggill)	672
49=	D J S 2	(M Horen)	718	158=	Tungston Town	(JW George)	672
50=	Bransbrow United	(Jon Pregon)	717	159=	Billy No Mates X 1	(M Bremner)	672
51=	Thorn Fostery F C	(S Roberts)	717	160=	Langston Longballs	(D Edmondson)	672
52=	Midfield Magic	(R Laskowski)	716	161=	J S August Monthly 1	(J Swires)	671
53=	Krystonia 2	(P Walters)	716	162=	Havok	(Peter Williamson)	671
54=	Your Not Very Well	(Andy Robson)	716	163=	Hannah's Heroes	(Cain Bennett)	671
55=	Bladenrunners	(G P Dole)	715	164=	Lloyd's Barge	(David Goodwin)	671
56=	Club 18-30 Tessa	(S Mingle)	713	165=	Inter-mountford	(Andrew Mountford)	671
57=	Man City Free Zone	(P Turner)	713	166=	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	671
58=	Noahs Ark	(C Hunter)	713	167=	Flying Pigs	(M Macmillan)	670
59=	Concrete Banana	(Patrick Fromm)	712	168=	Dimlymo Moscow	(C Wilson)	670
60=	Tur	(J Hunt)	712	169=	Drains	(D Edmondson)	670
61=	Hunters Mob	(P Turner)	710	170=	Layton's Lions 7	(R Layton)	669
62=	Where's Ray Goo?	(D Tulp)	708	171=	Caroline B	(A Luckhurst)	669
63=	John Hunt Taunton C	(A Burton)	708	172=	Bob Hope And No Hope	(P Johnson)	669
64=	Turners Earners 6	(M Babar)	707	173=	Bumty Buddies	(J Brown)	669
65=	Tulips Toys	(J Hunt)	707	174=	Nobby 5		668
66=	Skyforest						
67=	Alto						
68=	John Hunt Taunton E						



## SAILING

# Frenchman leaves rest of the world behind

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent.

ONE of the toughest records in sailing was comprehensively beaten yesterday when Olivier de Kersusson, of France, set a new time for the fastest non-stop circumnavigation of the globe to capture the Jules Verne Trophy.

De Kersusson's huge trimaran, *Sport-Elec*, crossed the finishing line between Ushant and the Lizard Point, off Cornwall, just before 8am yesterday, stopping the clock on the 25,000-mile voyage at 71 days 14hr 18min 8sec.

The new time cuts more than 30 hours off the previous record, set by a crew of eight, led by Sir Peter Blake and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, on the catamaran, *ENZA* New Zealand, in 1994. While it had been expected for weeks that

by a few minutes or hours, but by three days — that's tremendous. It'll be hard for anyone of this generation to beat this record, though I believe it can be done in 60 days," he said.

For the man from Brittany, who underwent a triple heart bypass operation two years ago, the quest for the Jules Verne prize has been an obsession that has lasted the best part of four years, embracing six separate attempts. On his first, in January 1993, he hit a lump of ice off Cape Town and retired. The next year, he sailed all the way, trailing *ENZA* but finishing three days behind the triumphant British and New Zealand crew.

Since then, there have been three other attempts, all of which were abandoned when de Kersusson calculated he was slipping too far behind *ENZA*'s time or because weather patterns suggested a record was unlikely. On this latest attempt, which started on March 8, de Kersusson sailed a much shorter course than *ENZA*, shaving as much as 1,500 miles off the total distance. His average speed was slower than the 14.68 knots achieved by *ENZA*.

De Kersusson had a crew of six on board *Sport-Elec*, a 90ft trimaran that had a new mast installed for the voyage and was lightened by around 400 kilos to make her faster.

In breaking the record, de Kersusson has thrown down the gauntlet to Tracy Edwards, of Great Britain, who sets off on her own record attempt next January in the old *ENZA*, now renamed *Royal Sun Alliance*. Edwards said last week that she hoped de Kersusson would not take more than a day off the old time. She said that much more would make breaking it again extremely difficult.

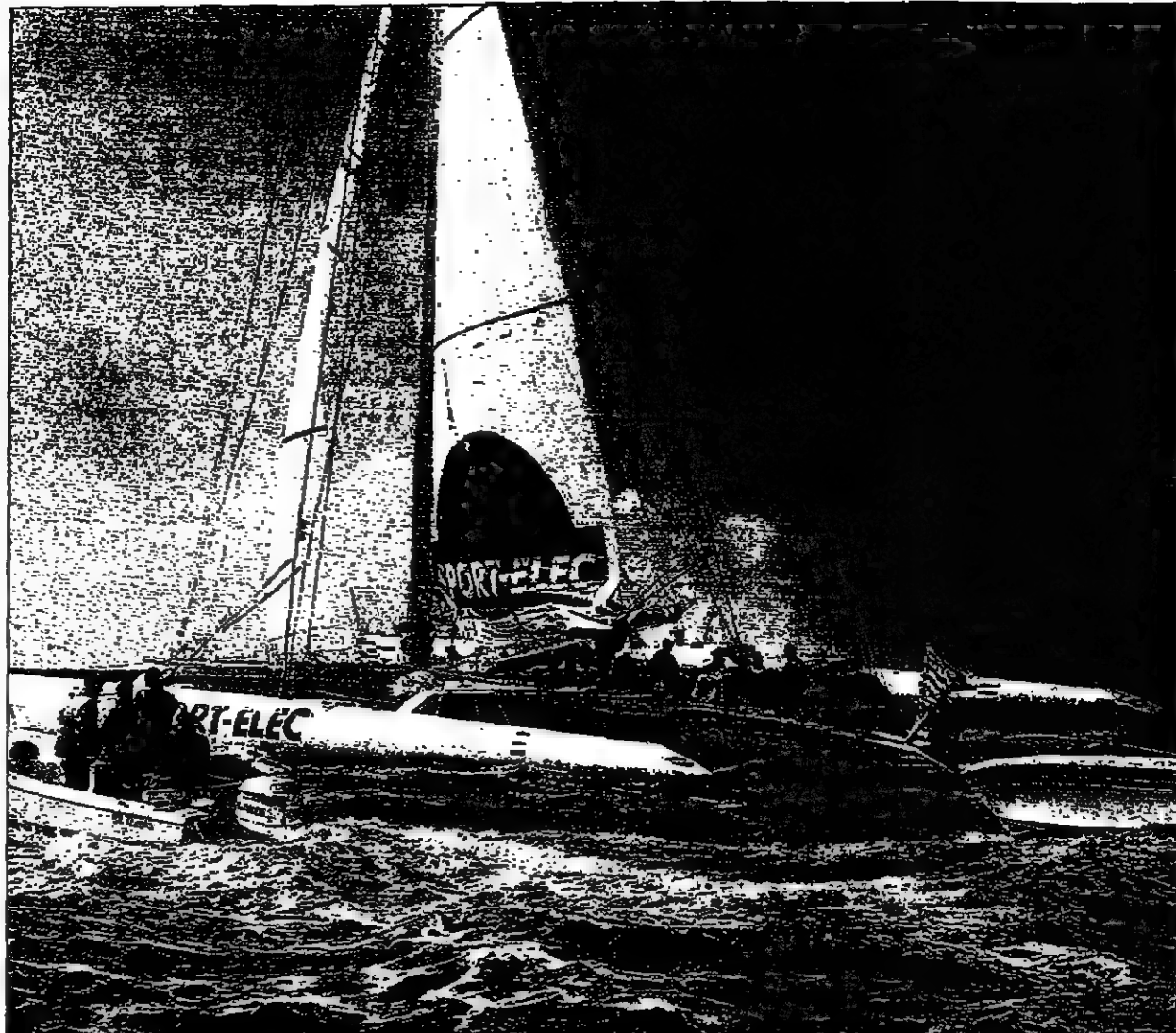
However, *Royal Sun Alliance* has had up to half a ton of weight taken out, has a lighter deck gear and a new set of sails that are more advanced both in design and material. Ed Danby, Edwards's project manager, who was part of Knox-Johnston's crew, believes the boat is sailing faster than ever before.

Peter Morton, the project manager of the British Admiralty's Cup team, has confirmed that Chris Law is to skipper the *Corel 45, Coram Indulgence*. Morton said Law, who won the Hoya Royal Lympington Cup at the weekend, would strengthen the team. "Chris Law is out there winning and we need as many winners as we can get," he said.

de Kersusson might beat Knox-Johnston's time, few predicted he would take such a large chunk out of it.

De Kersusson, whose boat was shepherded across the line by dozens of spectator craft, said it had been a tough voyage. "You couldn't say that we had the record handed to us on a plate," he said. "We took intelligent risks when it was required and, when the going got tough, we didn't hold back."

Among the thousands of well-wishers and supporters who gathered on the quayside at Brest to welcome the crew was Blake himself, who paid tribute to the 52-year-old French skipper. "I wouldn't have missed this for anything. I owed it to myself to be here," he said. "Olivier deserved this trophy because he has shown so much perseverance. He hasn't just beaten this record

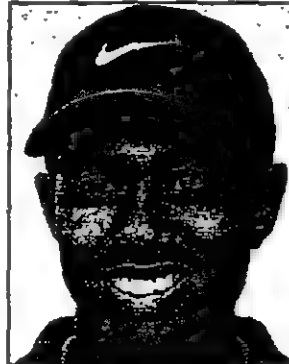


De Kersusson's trimaran, *Sport-Elec*, completes its record-breaking circumnavigation yesterday

## GOLF: MASTERS CHAMPION SETS HIS SIGHTS ON SECOND MAJOR SUCCESS

# Woods takes root in glory

By John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent



Woods: passion

THE Tiger Woods bandwagon rolls on, setting new records, raising the standard of golf and bringing thousands of extra spectators to the course every time he plays. Woods had taken a month off after his 12-stroke victory in the Masters, but it made no difference. In the Byron Nelson Classic on Sunday, he carried on where he had left off at Augusta — winning, this time by two strokes. It was his fifth victory in the 16 events in which he has competed as a professional.

Woods, who was 21 on December 30, has accumulated \$1.34 million from the 16 events in which he has played, which is more money made more quickly than anyone in the history of the game. He is also the youngest man since Horton Smith, in the 1920s, to acquire five victories. Woods's five in 16 is unmatched, however. Smith won only two of his first 16 events.

"Tiger is amazing," Colin Montgomerie said yesterday. "I watched it [the Byron Nel-

son] on television and, when I turned it on, Larry Rinker was one up, but you always had the feeling that he was going to lose. The putting, the passion of the guy [Woods] — he is not No. 1, but we all acknowledge he is the best player in the world. We have got to improve beyond what we thought."

In three weeks' time, Woods will bid for victory in the second major championship of the year, the US Open. His performance will be an indication of his ability, because he will face a course with narrow fairways and thick rough,

features absent at Augusta. "This [the Byron Nelson course in Irving, Texas] was the toughest course he has won on," Montgomerie said. "It does not augur well for the rest of us in the US Open."

Woods attracted more than twice as many spectators as normal to the tournament and advance ticket sales were a record. During the event, it was revealed by the US Tour that revenue from new television contracts would quadruple to \$130 million by 2002 — all because of Woods.

Rinker, who finished second on Sunday, had the final word on Woods: "He kept saying he didn't have his A game. What is his A game, 40 under par?" Chris Johnson, of the United States, stuttered before winning the first major of his 18-year career at the McDonald's LPGA championship in Wilmington, Delaware, a nervous par at the second play-off hole edging out her competitor, Leta Lindley. Laura Davies, of Britain, the defending champion, birdied the last two holes to earn a share of fourth place with Sherri Steinhilber, of the United States.

## Stupples and Ratcliffe lead the chase

THE English women's amateur championship, which starts at Saunton today with the first of two qualifying rounds, is officially a closed event, but, in reality, is the most open for years (Patricia Davies writes).

Joanne Hockey, the champion, has turned professional, as has Lisa Edwards, the runner-up. Julie Hall, who won in 1994 and 1995, has retired and there is no former champion in the draw, although Emma Duggieby won the British title at Newport in 1994.

Kim Rostrom, from Clitheroe, has more recent form, having won the Helen Holm Trophy at Royal Troon last week.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Goodway back on Britain's shortlist

By Christopher Irvine

BY TAKING up the coaching post at Paris Saint-Germain until the end of the season, Andy Goodway has re-entered the frame for the Great Britain position. An appointment for the three-match home series against Australia in November is expected by August.

Goodway's immediate priority is to fit a Paris side beset by injury and poor form away from relegation trouble in the Stanes Super League. After the visit of London Broncos next Monday, Goodway will have less than two weeks to prepare the team for testing games against Hunter Mariners and Perth in the world club championship.

As someone who has always wanted to work in Australia, coaching a team of Australians is possibly the next best alternative. However, it could be that Goodway turns to more indigenous talent to help the French club, who now sit below Oldham Bears, his employers until two weeks ago, a place off the foot of the table.

Goodway, 35, the former Wigan and British forward, said that Paris had lost several games by narrow margins in the first half of the league campaign, but omitted to mention that one such defeat was at Oldham, just before his dismissal. "I realise I am taking on a club in a lowly position, but I am confident of turning things round," he said.

The departure of John Joyner, from Castleford, quickly followed by that of Goodway, from Oldham, had rendered the shortlist for the Britain job worryingly thin. Andy Gregory, of Salford Reds, is the early favourite, but Joe Lydon, the new Rugby Football League technical director, wants to see how candidates perform in all the world club championship group matches before making a recommendation.

European clubs got an idea yesterday of the task that awaits them next month in a magnificent final of the first Australasian Super League tri-series. New South Wales beat Queensland 23-22 in Brisbane in rugby league's first use of the "golden points" rule. With the scores tied after 20 minutes of extra time, the winning dropped goal by Noel Goldthorpe ended sudden death in the 104th minute. Brett Mullins scored three of the four New South Wales tries and Steve Renouf got two for Queensland.

## Handicap lifted as Audis are overtaken

THE weight penalty imposed on the 1996 title-winning Audi A4 quattro, which has struggled in the early rounds of the *Auto Trader* British touring car championship, was yesterday rescinded in a bid to make the series more competitive (Mark Fogarty writes).

In the wake of runaway wins by Renault and Honda on Sunday at Brands Hatch, where the Audis of Frank Biela, of Germany, and John Bickel, of Britain, team-mates, were way off the pace, TOCA, the championship organiser, removed the additional 30-kilogram handicap in time for the next rounds, at Oulton Park next Monday.

"In coming to our decision, we have taken into account the levels of competition and have acted accordingly," Alan Gow, the chief executive of TOCA, said.

The revision means that the four-wheel drive A4s will revert to their original minimum weight limit of 1,040 kilograms. TOCA uses a weight-based handicap system to balance competition between cars with different drive configurations.

## Tonkov clear

Cycling: Pavel Tonkov, of Russia, the defending champion, took the overall lead in the Giro d'Italia yesterday with a dominating performance in the third stage, an 18-kilometre individual time trial from Santarcangelo to San Marino. He was timed at 31min 42sec, 21sec faster than Evgeny Berzin, his compatriot, who won the event in 1994.

## Thomas beaten

Golf: Linda Evans, 29, from Penzance, caused the biggest surprise on a day of upsets in the Welsh women's amateur championship at Norkirk Park yesterday when she knocked out Vicky Thomas, the eight-time champion, from Penarth, Swansea, with a 30-foot putt on the final hole of their quarter-final.

## Late charge

Golfing: Russell Cheetham won the first day's racing at the British overseas national championships at Le Blanc, France, by starting late and catching up those of the field of 40 who had successfully departed earlier without having had to "re-light" after indifferent starts.

**SHEEHAN on BRIDGE**

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

It is surprising how many different ways there are to handle quite straightforward suit combinations. The one in the hand today required an idea that I cannot recall seeing before. It is a problem from the entertaining quiz set by Andrew Kamblis in the English Bridge Union's bi-monthly magazine. Try just looking at the North-South cards.

Dealer East	Love all	IMPs
♠K ♥J3 ♦A7872 ♣QJ1093	♠A7 ♥KQ983 ♦Q8653 ♣K85	

Contract: Three No-trumps by South. Lead: Four of diamonds

With East-West playing a weak no-trump, East opens One Diamond and, with no further East-West bidding, North-South arrive in Three No-trumps. How should South play on a diamond lead?

The problem is to develop an extra trick in diamonds, while also finessing the clubs — declarer needs the club king to be right. If you work it through, you will find that an unusual play is necessary — declarer must insert the jack of diamonds on the first lead. Now, if East ducks, declarer is in dummy to take the club finesse and can subsequently unblock the diamonds before taking dummy's clubs and cashing the ace of diamonds.

**KEENE on CHESS**

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

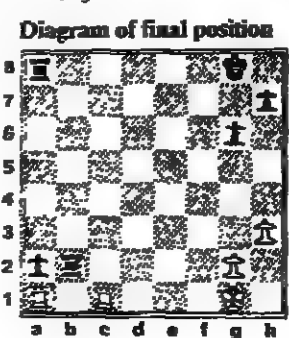
## Euro success

The undisputed star of the gold medal-winning England team in the European championship at Pula, in Croatia, was Matthew Sadler, the former British champion. Although all the other team members — Short, Adams, Speelman and Hodgson — made praiseworthy "plus one" scores, Sadler scored an amazing "plus five" performance, leading to a tally of 7/9.

In this game, taken from England's match against Estonia, Sadler shows how it is possible to win against the solid c3 variation of the Sicilian Defence. White overambitiously sacrifices a pawn, but carefully nurses his advantage and wins in the endgame. It is noteworthy that Sadler finds no difficulty playing with the black pieces — he also notched up an immense positive score with Black for England in the Olympiad last year.

White: Rytshagov  
Black: Sadler  
European championship  
Pula, May 1997  
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 e5 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 e3 Nf6 5 Nc3 Kc6 6 Bc4 Nc5 7 Bb3 Bc5 8 e6 cxd6 9 d5



Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

**WORD-WATCHING**

By Philip Howard

BANAGHER  
a. A pancake  
b. Absurd  
c. A Hindu caste

THAMMUZ  
a. A three-stringed zither  
b. A judge  
c. A god

FIARS  
a. Mendicant friars  
b. Grain prices  
c. Sark legal immunity

SCIRON  
a. An ironic joker  
b. An Aegean island  
c. A robber

Answers on page 54

**WINNING MOVE**

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Schiffrer — Chigorin, St Petersburg, 1897. Here we have the unusual material balance of one piece and two pawns against a queen. Black has continued with the prosaic 1...b6, overlooking the chance for a brilliant Smith. What did he miss?

Solution on page 54

**NatWest Business Accounts Interest Rates**

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 20 May 1997:

Gross interest per annum	Instant Access — No minimum deposit/withdrawal	Overdraft	Overdraft (over limit)
4.250%	£250,000 and above	4.32%	
4.125%	£100,000 — £249,999	4.19%	
4.000%	£25,000 — £99,999	4.06%	
3.500%	£2,000 — £24,999	3.56%	
3.000%	£500 — £1,999	3.03%	
1.750%	£50 — £499	1.76%	

Where appropriate, tax will be deducted at source from interest credited or paid by NatWest. Subject to the required repayment terms, interest payments are retained in the account.

**NatWest**  
National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lombard, London EC2M 7JN



Australian batsman discarded for recklessness opens up to Alan Lee

## Slater retains faith in cavalier style

Just occasionally, a cricketer comes along who transcends partisanship and generates broad, affectionate appreciation. Such a player is Michael Slater, now embarking on his second England tour with a career to rebuild but a reputation as an entertainer that, in England at least, remains untouched by his soul-searching of the past six months.

Slater is the most dazzlingly instinctive opening batsman in the world today and, of consequence, one of the most vulnerable. Spectators love him for his fallibility as much as his fearlessness; he is that rare being, a cricketer who compels attention through the dread of missing something memorable, magical or howlingly mad.

He was an almost instant revelation in Test cricket, but in India last autumn instinct was traded for impetuosity once too often for the blood pressure of the Australia selectors. After an especially precipitate dismissal, chasing wildly outside off stump to the second ball of a Test in Delhi, Slater was dropped. He has not played an international game since.

This is likely to change at Headingley on Thursday, when Slater will probably bat in the middle order in the opening Texaco Trophy one-day match. He sees this as a platform, a means to the end that has recently consumed him, the re-establishment of his position at No 1 in the Test match side.

For a long time, it seemed Slater was destined to miss this tour, thus missing the return to where it all began, in particular a nostalgic return to Lord's, where he made a century in only his second Test match and celebrated it, engagingly, by kissing the Australian badge on his green helmet.



Slater at Arundel, where he reintroduced himself to English spectators with an unbeaten half-century

Slater, now 27, says he was "thrilled but not surprised" to be chosen. "It had all turned full circle in the three weeks before selection," he explains. "The form of certain players in South Africa had gone my way, as did the fact that this tour followed so quickly. From the moment I was left out, my goal and focus was to get back in time for England, so I just crossed my fingers and hoped."

The wounds of rejection have not entirely healed, but only now, with the safety of

distance and the security of a second chance, is Slater willing to talk openly about his feelings. At the time, he turned inwardly, abandoned his customarily lucid and approachable personality in favour of silent mourning.

If this sounds excessive, consider the man and his achievements. In 34 Tests, he has made 2,655 runs at an average of 47.41, at least five runs per innings higher than any of the present England team. Moreover, he had made them with the irrepressible

spirit that he was now being asked to curb.

He was confused. Also, because the modern international cricketer earns good money and he had just pledged himself and his wife, Stephanie, to a spanking new home in Sydney's dockside, he was entitled to be a little afraid.

"I was in shock, really," he recalls. "It hit me very hard because I didn't see it coming. I had always regarded myself as a consistent Test player and, although no one can ever

take such a thing for granted, I had not expected it to be taken away. I did get very low, depressed if you like. I'm only human and I found it hard to handle. At times, especially in the first few weeks afterwards, it seemed that nothing would go right. A long season stretched ahead and I didn't know what else."

The inevitable self-analysis was complicated by the difficulty of reconciling a need to adjust with a desire to retain his identity. "I had to reassess my style, but I came to the

conclusion that turning my natural, aggressive game into that of a run accumulator just wouldn't work.

"I received an awful lot of advice and it came down to me to sift through it and decide what was best. If I was getting out playing loose shots, that was something that had to be addressed, but even now I have not made fundamental changes to my technique. I will still get out to poor shots in the future, it's part of the game. I just intend to do it less often."

Slater's banishment polarised Australians. There were those who thought he had it coming to him, like a naughty schoolboy. There were others, like the former captain, Ian Chappell, who took an entirely different view. "The desire to punish Slater showed a lack of understanding in the need to maintain the right balance in the Test side," Chappell said. "Having undermined Slater's confidence in his natural game, he is now in such a mess he will require careful rehabilitation. He may never be the same player again."

Slater is aware of the concern, but intent on ignoring it. "I believe this saga has made me a better person," he said. "The need to rethink my goals and my methods will have done me no harm in the long run."

He has been in England only a week, but already he feels at home and in good form. "The response of the people here has been touching, really warm. A lot of them have come up and said they love the way I play. They seem to worry I'm going to change everything, but I can assure them I'm not. I'm a passionate person and that is how I will always bat. It wouldn't be me otherwise."

## Hat-trick specialist awaits date with destiny

IF Dean Headley is ever going to shed his reputation as a fine county bowler and become the Test match cricketer he aspires to be, he must take the decisive step this summer. On Sunday, he was named in the England party for the Texaco Trophy one-day international, but three matches served as a mere appetiser before the main dish. Has he the stomach for it?

The moment of truth cannot long be delayed. Headley, the Kent fast-medium swing bowler, has been spoken of for the past two years as the coming man among England's battalion of young quick bowlers and he will almost certainly get his chance when the first Test starts at Edgbaston on June 5. If he does play, it will be a homecoming of sorts, since he was born in Stourbridge, where he still keeps a house.

His father, Ron, the former

Worcestershire batsman, played Test cricket for West Indies. If it is difficult for a son to tread the same path as his father, then it must have been doubly difficult for Headley père, because he had to follow grandpère. "George, who was a Cardus considered a finer batsman than I," says Headley.

If he does play Test cricket, the Headleys will become the first family to provide three generations of Test players (there are, remarkably, 32 sets of fathers and sons). To do so, as Headley grandpère says, would be "something they can't take away, and if they did, it would take some time."

You could say, therefore, that Dean, now 27, absorbed cricket as freely and naturally as oxygen, although he did not tear up many pear trees at Worcester and, after two years

Michael Henderson meets an England prospect with Test cricket in his blood

with Middlesex, he found himself — and has really found himself — at Kent. As a late replacement for Peter Martin on the A tour of Pakistan two winters ago, he made a sharp impression and, last year, he took three hat-tricks in championship cricket, which takes some doing. Nobody has ever taken more.

He won a place in England's one-day team against Pakistan at the end of last year, but when the winter parties were announced, he went off again with the A team to Australia, where they played winning cricket. Now, one feels, he is as ready for Test cricket as he will ever be.

"I think I've shown my potential," Headley said. "I have put on pace each year

and developed. People want to know whether you can bowl a good outswinger, an inswinger, a yorker. It would be nice to have four variations on a slower ball. If you have two, you may find three. Four, who



Headley: self-critical

knows? Nobody can do the same thing all the time unless they are absolutely world class."

He agrees he is self-critical, which is a mark of honesty, and is as likely to award himself decent marks as to do himself down. "There are times when you take enough for you and you may bowled well. At other times, you may have taken four or five wickets without having bowled well at all. Being critical goes both ways."

As one might expect from a supporter of West Bromwich Albion, he is an optimist. "I would like to think I will play Test cricket. It's hard to decipher what the challenge is before you get there, but I don't think playing county cricket gets you through playing Test cricket. You can average 40 or 50 in county cricket, but that alone doesn't mean you will make that step

up. You must have something extra. For a bowler, it may be getting 20 runs with the bat, or saving ten in the field."

He enjoyed Australia, he said, because the pitches, though not always fast, were true. "I prefer to play my first few games each year on short front pitches, where the ball goes through a bit, because it grooves you... you really have to bowl properly."

He also enjoyed the contest with Australian cricketers, though he does not see them as a tribe of supermen. To earn the right to play against them this summer, he will simply carry on as before. A bright chap, is Headley. He speaks well, has a high regard for his peers and, like many young English players, wants to show that domestic cricket is not so sclerotic as it is sometimes portrayed. He should not have to wait long for his chance. Wish him well.

## Promises that too often go up in smoke

Rob Hughes, chief sports writer, on the political football of tobacco sponsorship that has been kicked about for decades

Sport faces rapid change under New Labour. Yesterday, Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, warned that tobacco sponsorship, as well as advertising, will be outlawed under his administration. Thus 60 sports that have inhaled tobacco money to the tune of £8 million a year over three decades will have to find new ways to finance themselves.

Today, Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, holds counsel with the Sports Council and is expected to reduce the £300 million that sport receives annually from the National Lottery by up to one third. The worst fears are that this drastic cut, in order to finance Labour promises on health and education, will jeopardise John Major's £100 million National Academy of Sport and possibly defer the rebuilding of Wembley Stadium into a crown jewel to be used in enticing the World Cup and the Olympic Games to London.

Let us be honest. If sport has grown so dependent on tobacco sponsorship — the antithesis of promoting health and fitness — that it cannot

live within its means, then it simply must be scaled back. If this puts Britain at a disadvantage to other countries that do not care where the funding comes from, then perhaps Britain should take the healthy lead. It would, after all, help to excuse Great Britain's failure to finish any higher than 36th at the last Olympics... a failure that, incidentally, Labour pledged to reverse in the chase for popular votes. Jack Cunningham, then the Shadow Heritage Secretary, boasted that Labour would put Britain back into the Olympic top ten. He did not say how, he did not cost his promise and now, in the agriculture ministry, he is able to bury the hollow words.

But, to be fair, which of us, sports lovers though we may be, can argue the priority for sport over health and education? If Labour wants to put back the grass roots, replace, where possible, the lost playing fields and encourage teachers to spend time coaching their pupils, then, arguably, that will have its place among the priorities of the nation's health.

In any event, the Tory ideal of establishing its academy of sport never seemed more than an expensive experiment. Do

money and tobacco. It begins to sound as hollow as a smoke ring, because in 1965 the Government banned advertising of tobacco on television. Shortly after that, Lord Howell, who, as Denis Howell,

was to become the Labour Minister for Sport, formed a company with the agent, Bagenal Harvey, setting up tobacco sponsorships: Lord Howell called tobacco money the "lifeblood" of sport.

From then until today, sport built a dependency on the tobacco handout. It is ironic that the Sports Council journeys to the National Heritage Ministry today in fear of losing even more income, when, in 1978, that council rejected a resolution urging it to "neither negotiate nor associate with tobacco sponsorship". John Disley, then its vice-chairman, lamented "that some of our sports bodies should associate with tobacco, I find like putting King Herod in charge of child welfare". Almost 20 years on, the debate goes around and around. It is a treadmill, this conflict of sport tainted by nicotine, and Labour has yet to deliver on its promise and its threat.

Sponsorship ban, page 1

## HOCKEY

## Instonians on target in shoot-out

INSTONIANS, from Belfast, won the B division of the European club championship in Cagliari, Italy, yesterday, twice coming from behind against Amisora, the home side, in the final to force a penalty shoot-out, which they won 4-3.

In a display of immense fortitude, Mark Irwin and Mervyn Cooke levelled the scores from penalty corners during normal time after Alessio Raggio had twice converted penalty strokes. Cooke and his brothers, Paul and Neil, were also on target in the shoot-out, along with Paul Holloway, the captain.

Cannock of England, also had to come from behind in their bronze medal play-off against White Star, of Belgium. A goal down in the first minute, they responded with two goals from Bob Crutchley and one each from Chris Mayer and Paul Edwards to earn a 4-2 win.

Swansea registered their first victory of the tournament in their final game. They beat Grange, from Scotland, 1-0 with a 31st-minute strike by Carlo Lucignoli that ensured that Whitechurch, their successors as Welsh champions, will remain in the B division.

Hightown duplicated Cannock's success in the A division of the women's championships at The Hague, Holland, beating Glasgow Western 5-3 in an uncompromising contest to secure third place.

Berliner won the title for the first time when they came from a goal behind to beat HGC, the home team, 2-1 in the final.

## TENNIS

## Injury rules Becker out of French Open

BORIS BECKER's hopes of winning the French Open, the only grand slam crown still eluding him, were dashed yesterday when he had to pull out of the championships. Pete Sampras's French hopes also receded when an injury forced him to retire from a match against Mark Philippoussis of Australia, in Düsseldorf yesterday.

The organisers of the French Open said that the 29-year-old German had withdrawn through injury from the clay-court tournament, which starts next Monday. They did not give details, but Becker's season has been hampered by a lingering wrist injury that allowed him to play in only two tournaments in the past three months, in Monte Carlo and Hamburg.

Sampras's preparations were thrown into disarray by an injury to his left thigh. He says he does not know what his plans are, but hopes to be fit for Paris.

Tim Henman, the British No 1, last night vowed to return to the practice courts immediately as he made his second early exit from a tournament in successive weeks. The world No 17 slumped 6-4, 6-3 to Sjeng Schalken, of Holland, in the first round of the Raiffeisen Grand Prix in Austria, less than a week after being beaten in the Italian Open second round by an Italian qualifier, Davide Scola.

"I think in the next five or six days it will be pretty important to put in some practice time," Henman said.

## BADMINTON

## New series designed to raise profile

THE All-England championships are likely to become part of a new, higher-status series of tournaments in the world grand prix circuit named the "seven spectaculars" (Richard Eaton writes). The series is designed to increase worldwide television coverage and give badminton a new image and direction.

It should include four big prize-money tournaments in Asia, two in Europe and one in the United States. The Atlanta Olympics did not move the sport forward a lot, David Shaw, the executive director of the International Badminton Federation (IBF), said on the opening day of the world championships in Glasgow yesterday. "But there is a huge potential market in the United States, with a lot of people playing socially."

The All-England, with \$125,000 prize money, arguably retains its status as the most prestigious open tournament, though whether or not it becomes part of the new series will depend upon the IBF and the Badminton Association of England reaching agreement with the Asian-based Star television company — something that has not happened in the recent past.

The series should begin in 1999. Leading into it next year will be two smaller, shop window events, possibly comprising the top four men's singles players and the top four men's doubles pairings, in Sydney and either Rome or London. If this attracts worldwide television coverage, it will mean that the World Cup this year will be the last.

## POOLS FORECAST

Saturday May 24  
Coupon No. 1000, 10000  
VICTORIA  
FIRST DIVISION  
1 Bristol v Moorpark 2  
2 Doncaster v Kingston 2  
3 Lough U v Monmouth 1  
4 Richmond v Northcote 1  
5 S Dandridge v Wigan 1  
6 Wombles v Western 1  
7 Westhale v Spiggle C 1  
SECOND DIVISION  
8 Alton v E Richmond 2  
9 Bat Park v York City 2  
10 E Alton v Moor Park 1  
11 E Brunel v Waverley 2  
12 Filton v Oakleigh 2  
13 Ringwood v Glen Elva 1  
THIRD DIVISION  
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
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1 34 Campbell v Salsbury 1  
2 35 Olympean v Woodville 1  
3 36 Port Linn v Adelaide B 2  
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SECOND DIVISION  
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CHANGING TIMES

**COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS**

The four top scorers in the individual and aggregate competitions played on the company golf days last week are as follows:

Date	Company Name	Score
9 MAY	SHARDIAN INSURANCE	138
9 MAY	NETAURINE LIMITED	137
9 MAY	SINGULAR ROCKIE & TEMPERLEY	131
9 MAY	SHULE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	128
9 MAY	MO SELECTION	118
12 MAY	SCOTTION BUILDING SOCIETY	108
12 MAY	LAGREW - MERCEDES BENZ	106
12 MAY	SUN STEPHENSON LIMITED	104
13 MAY	LANTERN ENGINEERING LIMITED	123
14 MAY	CELEBRAL MEDICAL (EAST BRIDLANDS)	148
14 MAY	WEATHERALL GREEN & SMITH	126

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2 FAXBACK ON 0660 600667  
3 ACCESS THE INTERNET SITE ON <http://www.esfweb.co.uk/timesorgolf/>







# From cold collation to flash-fried red herrings

Typical. You wait ages for a decent suspect to turn up, and then half a dozen arrive at once. As Alan Bleasdale's *Melissa* (Channel 4) caners into the final stretch, all those cold leads that *Detectives* Cameron and Kilshaw were struggling to wait up last week have turned red-hot. They wait you against doing this kind of thing when cooking-chicken: apparently there is a risk that the rapid temperature change will not kill off all the bugs. Slow, thorough cooking is best. Actually, you could skip the same advice label on this five-part homage to Francis Dufrenoy. After last Wednesday's episode, which ended with the murder of Jennifer Ehle's Melissa, even the Venus de Milo possessed enough fingers to point at all the credible suspects. Now, at last, our fingers have something to do apart from twitching above the "off" switch. Maybe it was Melissa's hubby

Guy Foster, the former war correspondent, but he has so little free time. When he isn't wrestling with his novel (writing one, not reading one), he seems far too busy kicking in television screens: it's a hobby that doesn't leave him much time for committing murders as well. Of course, we are all presuming that Guy's flamboyant tub-trashing eventually has some relevance to the drama. It is too bizarre a character trait to throw in just for the hell of it. But exactly how will it fit into the plot? It is hard to tell: for now, it just sits distractingly on top of events, like a cheap wig.

Then there is Melissa's psychiatrist, who seems to be in her debt and who is also being blackmailed: you can tell he is agitated about something because his eyeballs dart about uncontrollably, as if there were nothing anchoring them into their sockets. Don Page—a past-it racing driver who has always pined for Melissa

—is behaving oddly. He tries to kill himself by speeding his red Jag into a wall: the airbag inflates. It is a great commercial for Jaguar, but does a man who picks such a low-risk method of suicide (he is a professional driver, remember) have enough intelligence to commit a tangle of murders?

Paula, we now know, is Melissa's real mother. "I was 15 when I had her," she wails, in one of those scenes where the characters explain the plot. So was it Paula who pulled the trigger on Melissa's nasty foster parents in Cape Town in episode one? Julie Walters plays the part of Paula so fluently, she could easily be faking innocence as well. She keeps wailing "I killed her", which is neither here nor there in a murder mystery. But take it down: it may be used in evidence later.

As for Paula's husband, he is an all-purpose creep, so nobody

## REVIEW



Joe Joseph

mind pointing a spare finger at him. The dingo chantage? She is read crazy for Don Page, and his heart has always belonged to Melissa, so maybe she did it to get rid of a rival. And why does Guy's old South Africa buddy, George, keep cropping up?

Still, thank God that Cameron and Kilshaw, played neatly by Bill Paterson and Michael Angelis, seem to be making headway at

last. Thank God also that Bleasdale, who is one of our cleverest television scriptwriters, has at least given the two coppers some witty lines — although this only serves to highlight how hum much of the dialogue has been. Apart from Foster's enigmatic ravings when he had writer's block ("I can't turn a train into a plane. I see a train... I haven't seen a plane all day"), the phrase that still jags in your brain is Melissa's admonishment to Guy: "Don't even begin to think you have the right to be anything other than the man I love." Explanations on a postcard, please.

If you have stuck with it so far, then presumably you will be tuning in for tonight's final episode. So will those of us who think that even if *Melissa* is not Bleasdale's best, it has been worth watching. Otherwise it would be like going to watch your team only when it got to the Cup Final.

Not everybody survives very long in a murder mystery, but they mostly survive longer than a mayfly. If you fancy a long life, then my advice is not to get reincarnated as a mayfly.

As George Woodward, a fishing gillie on the River Wye, said in *Tales From The River Bank* (BBC2), when a mayfly hatches into life "he must be thinking, great. I'll have me full 24 hours bonking and then I'm gonna die happy. Imagine how he feels when, just as he surfaces, a swallow or pied wagtail swoops down and eats him."

You especially do not want to be a mayfly on the first day of the salmon-fishing season in Scotland, when anglers gather to pray for success on the riverbank. They also presumably pray that none of their friends finds out how much they paid for their chance to catch their very own "king of fish."

because it is certainly a chunk more than the same fish would cost you at Waitrose. Of course, the difference is that these are "wild" salmon. But what is it that makes them so wild? Maybe it is all those men in tweed trying to slip a hook through their mouths. That would be sure to make most us pretty wild. I would guess, George's big bugbear seems to be people who poach salmon. Maybe he prefers his fried. As I say, it is a world of mysterious passions, this fishing.

I was itching to see *The Antiques Show* (BBC2) because it was promising to show us how David Hare transforms junk-shop finds to look like priceless antiques. Maybe, I thought, this will give us some insight into how Hare whisked up those plays such as *Brassic* and *Plenty*. But it turned out to be a different David Hare. A pity that Francine Stock, the best thing about this show, gets such a small look-in.

### BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (84391)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (89759)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (898952)
- 9.25 Style Challenge (8317469)
- 9.45 Kilroy (862217)
- 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (31048)
- 11.00 News (7406652)
- 11.05 The Great Escape (766362)
- 11.35 Real Roads (729058)
- 12.00 News (7406652)
- 12.05pm Cell My Bluff (766339)
- 12.35 The Practice (9129339)
- 1.00 News (7406652)
- 1.30 Regional News (8645952)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (9632339)
- 1.45 Neighbours (74054581)
- 2.10 Country Walks to Curious Places (1086730)
- 2.20 Racing from Goodwood the 2.40, 3.10 and the 3.40 races (1700662)
- 2.55 News and weather (842440)
- 3.00 Through the Keyhole (7285)
- 3.30 Playdays (8913407) 3.50 Pismo (5270594) 3.55 Arthur (9016594) 4.20 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (7351198) 4.35 Round the Twist (1025407) 5.00 Newsround (7428339) 5.10 Actv-8 (805285)
- 5.35 Neighbours (7406652)
- 6.00 News (7406652)
- 6.30 Regional News (407)
- 7.00 Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelt Monty Don becomes a holiday rep in Crete (742594)
- 7.30 EastEnders (7406652)
- 8.00 Children's Hospital Eight-year-old Andrew Hamilton has recurrent promnesia (7406652)
- 8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart Gary marvels at the creativity of his two partners. Last in series (7406652)
- 9.00 News (7406652)
- 9.30 Carrot on a Stick A new step-by-step featuring the best of Jasper Carrott (82407) WALES: 9.30 Week in Week Out (82407) 10.00 Carrot on a Stick (16730) 10.30 QED (32778) 11.00 Carnies Film Festival with Barry Norman (904489) 11.40 FILM: The Sting (9614643) 1.45 FILM: The Badly-Born Room (5121995) 3.10 News (7406652)
- 10.00 QED: Superspace Dr Josh Silver puts his invention to the test in Ghana (16730)
- 10.30 Cannes Film Festival with Barry Norman reports from the annual star-studded extravaganza (477943)
- 11.10 The Sting (1973) Oscar-winning escapee, with Robert Redford and Paul Newman as two 1930s con men determined to wrangle petty mobster Robert Shaw out of a fortune as revenge for the murder of a mutual friend. Directed by George Roy Hill (7406652)
- 1.15am The Badly-Born Room (1969) with Spike Milligan, Ralph Richardson and Rita Tushnet. Surreal comedy, based on Milligan's play, set in a Berlin devastated by nuclear war. Directed by Richard Lester (558976)
- 2.45 Weather (1717952)

**VideoPlus+** and the Video PlusCode  
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

### BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: San Marco a Dominican Priory The Florentine monastery (8132407) 8.30 Sports Centre (8111814) 8.50 Utilitarianism: A Lecture by Bernard Williams (8602827)
- 7.15 News (7406652) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (7406652) 7.55 Blue Peter (7406652) 8.20 Junior Jungle (8663652) 8.35 The Record (8950001) 8.40 Teaching Today (93407) 8.50 Space Ark: The Environment (7246204) 9.45 Watch (7247559) 10.00 Teletubbies (74339) 10.30 Come Outside (6427407) 10.45 Science Zone (4414594) 11.05 Space Ark (7494827) 11.15 Go for It (701338) 11.30 Sportsbeat (9488) 12.00 See Hear! (19643)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (40285) 1.00 Teaching Today (80486) 1.30 Job Bank (8645454) 1.40 Zig Zag Special (8089001) 2.00 Junior Jungle (1037488) 2.10 The Flying Vet (9354848) 2.30 The Mill's Life (440) 3.00 Racing from Goodwood includes the 3.10 and 3.40 races (8790223) 3.55 News (7406652)
- 4.00 Racing from Goodwood the 4.10 race (8254556) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (527843)
- 4.55 Esther Celebrity siblings swap stories (1162469) 5.30 Today's Day (559)
- 6.00 Heartbreak High A new-age teacher arrives (7406652)
- 6.45 Gower's Cricket Monthly In the first of a new monthly series David Gower meets the Australian team as they prepare to defend the Ashes. Jonathan Agnew examines the state of English cricket. Plus a look at Irish cricket (769914)
- 7.30 Home Ground An explosion at Dounreay in 1977 (533)
- 8.00 Two Fat Ladies Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright cook for a girls' leicreose team (7406652)
- 8.30 Food and Drink Plinio wines recommended. John Burton-Race cooks a Bedouin feast (7406652)
- 9.00 Murder One A new defence strategy is required (7406652)
- 10.28 Tales from the Net Andy from Somerset and Lea from Norfolk meet and married via the Internet (877533)
- 10.30 Newswatch (7406652)
- 11.15 Ruby Among the guests is Helen Lederer (82225)
- 12.00 The Midlight Hour (24773)
- 12.30am Learning Zones Open University: Spirit of Light (871) 1.00 Velocity Diagrams (20828) 1.30 Making the News (14567) 2.00 Nightwatch: Go for it (91266) 4.00 BBC Focus: Teaching and Learning with IT (87624) 4.30 Teaching and Learning with IT (89773) 5.00 Inside Europe (85505) 5.30 Film Education (25412)

### UK GOLD

- 1.00pm Truettion (17594) 2.00 Snooker (84223) 3.30 Truettion (17594) 4.00 Truettion (17594) 5.30 Truettion (17594) 6.30 Truettion (17594) 7.30 Truettion (17594) 8.30 Truettion (17594) 9.30 Truettion (17594) 10.30 Truettion (17594) 11.30 Truettion (17594) 12.30 Truettion (17594)

### SKY MOVIES GOLD

- 6.00pm The Man from Colorado (1948) 7.30pm The Man from Colorado (1948) 8.30pm The Man from Colorado (1948) 9.30pm The Man from Colorado (1948) 10.30pm The Man from Colorado (1948) 11.30pm The Man from Colorado (1948) 12.30pm The Man from Colorado (1948)

### SKY SPORTS 1

- 7.00am Sports Centre (76223) 7.30am Sports Centre (76223) 8.00am Sports Centre (76223) 8.30am Sports Centre (76223) 9.00am Sports Centre (76223) 9.30am Sports Centre (76223) 10.00am Sports Centre (76223) 10.30am Sports Centre (76223) 11.00am Sports Centre (76223) 11.30am Sports Centre (76223) 12.00am Sports Centre (76223) 12.30am Sports Centre (76223)

### SKY SPORTS 3

- 12.00 Sports Centre (76223) 1.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 1.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 2.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 2.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 3.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 3.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 4.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 4.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 5.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 5.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 6.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 6.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 7.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 7.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 8.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 8.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 9.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 9.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 10.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 10.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 11.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 11.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 12.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 12.30pm Sports Centre (76223)

### EUROSPORT

- 7.00pm Football (71739) 8.00pm Football (71739) 9.00pm Football (71739) 10.00pm Football (71739) 11.00pm Football (71739) 12.00pm Football (71739)

### THE MOVIE CHANNEL

- 6.00am My Little Pony: The Movie (1986) 7.00am My Little Pony: The Movie (1986) 8.00am My Little Pony: The Movie (1986) 9.00am My Little Pony: The Movie (1986) 10.00am My Little Pony: The Movie (1986) 11.00am My Little Pony: The Movie (1986) 12.00am My Little Pony: The Movie (1986)

### HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (4419310)
- 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (7406652)
- 9.55 Regional News (7406652)
- 10.00 The Time, the Place (81665)
- 10.30 This Morning (8268254)
- 12.30pm Regional News (7406652)
- 12.30 News (7406652)
- 12.55 Shortland Street (910827) 1.25 Home and Away (70271933) 1.50 Afternoon Live (4052814) 2.20 Vanessa (7407625) 2.50 Afternoon Live (243565)
- 3.20 News (819223)
- 3.25 Regional News (819754)
- 3.30 Wizards (7406652)
- 3.40 Potamus Park: Last in series (7406652)
- 3.55 Regional News (819754)
- 4.00 The Time, the Place (81665)
- 4.30 The Time, the Place (81665)
- 5.10 The House Last in the Df series (7406652)
- 5.40 News (7406652)
- 6.00 Home and Away (7406652)
- 6.25 HTV Tonight (622759)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (7406652)
- 7.00 Emmerdale Frank faces up to the villagers in the Woodcock (7406652)
- 7.30 Family Circus: A Vagabond The last in the series explores the difference in attitudes within the Bettelheim family who first settled in Bristol in the 1850s (7406652)
- 8.00 The Bill A pub landlord gets run over after taking to Boulton. At first it looks like a simple case of revenge against a police "snout" — until Ravon unearths evidence to suggest otherwise (7406652)
- 8.30 The Cook Report Investigative journalist Roger Cook subjects more dodgy characters to trial by television (7406652)
- 9.00 Teaching Evil After a close brush with death, Croghan begins to form a picture of his cunning adversary and soon finds himself locked in a battle of wits with an unstable young woman obsessed by what lies beyond the grave (7406652)
- 10.00 News (7406652)
- 10.30 Regional News (458285)

### THE GRIEF-STRIKEN QUEEN (10.40pm)

- 10.40 Victoria and Albert A Queen Alone Prince Michael of Kent concludes the two-part dramatised documentary about his greatest-grandmother, Queen Victoria (7406652)

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- 11.40 Conspiracy of Silence The 16 year wall of silence begins to crumble (7406652)
- 12.35am Dating the Enemy (408957)
- 1.35 Late and Loud (897973)
- 2.35 The Chart Show (7406652)
- 3.35 Customs Classified (7406652)
- 4.30 The Time, the Place (81665)
- 5.00 Newsround (52131)
- 5.30 News (22228)

### 10.40 Victoria and Albert A Queen Alone Prince Michael of Kent concludes the two-part dramatised documentary about his greatest-grandmother, Queen Victoria (7406652)

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### SATELLITE AND CABLE

- 1.00pm Truettion (17594) 2.00 Snooker (84223) 3.30 Truettion (17594) 4.00 Truettion (17594) 5.30 Truettion (17594) 6.30 Truettion (17594) 7.30 Truettion (17594) 8.30 Truettion (17594) 9.30 Truettion (17594) 10.30 Truettion (17594) 11.30 Truettion (17594) 12.30 Truettion (17594)

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### SKY SPORTS 3

- 12.00 Sports Centre (76223) 1.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 1.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 2.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 2.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 3.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 3.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 4.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 4.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 5.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 5.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 6.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 6.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 7.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 7.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 8.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 8.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 9.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 9.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 10.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 10.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 11.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 11.30pm Sports Centre (76223) 12.00pm Sports Centre (76223) 12.30pm Sports Centre (76223)

### EUROSPORT

- 7.00pm Football (71739) 8.00pm Football (71739) 9.00pm Football (71739) 10.00pm Football (71739) 11.00pm Football (71739) 12.00pm Football (71739)

### THE MOVIE CHANNEL

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### CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (910827)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7778049)
- 6.25-7.00 Central News (765925)
- 7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (759)
- 11.40 Highlander (491020)
- 12.40am Collins and Maclean's Movie Club (5530402)
- 1.15 Film: Always Remember I Love You (225624)
- 3.00 In Focus (4651773)
- 3.40 The Big Match Replayed (1391782)
- 4.20 Central Jobfinder (97134044)
- 5.20 Asian Eye (8835131)

### WESTCOUNTRY

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (910827)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7778049)
- 6.25-7.00 Central News (765925)
- 7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (759)
- 11.40 Highlander (491020)
- 12.40am Collins and Maclean's Movie Club (5530402)
- 1.15 Film: Always Remember I Love You (225624)
- 3.00 In Focus (4651773)
- 3.40 The Big Match Replayed (1391782)
- 4.20 Central Jobfinder (97134044)
- 5.20 Asian Eye (8835131)

### MERIDIAN

- As HTV West except:
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7778049)
- 6.00 Meridian Tonight (223)
- 6.30-7.00 Truly, Madly, Weekly (575)
- 7.30-8.00 The Parish (759)
- 11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (755556)
- 5.00am Freescreen (52131)

### ANGLIA

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (910827)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7778049)
- 6.25-7.00 Central News (765925)
- 7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (759)
- 11.40 Highlander (491020)
- 12.40am Collins and Maclean's Movie Club (5530402)
- 1.15 Film: Always Remember I Love You (225624)
- 3.00 In Focus (4651773)
- 3.40 The Big Match Replayed (1391782)
- 4.20 Central Jobfinder (97134044)
- 5.20 Asian Eye (8835131)

### S4C

- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (77001)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (72469)
- 9.00 Bewitched (28575)
- 9.30 Yagellon (405665)
- 12.00 House to House (48339)
- 12.30pm Rick Lake (86811)
- 1.00 Stet Meltham (98875448)
- 1.15 Pingu (6463763)
- 1.30 Film: 23 Paces to Baker Street (75204)
- 3.30 Collector's Lot (881)
- 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (488)
- 4.30 Taste of the Times (372)
- 5.00 5 Pump (5440)
- 5.30 Countdown (952)
- 6.00 Newyddion (390407)
- 6.05 News (724556)
- 6.35 News in a Sign (839040)
- 7.00 Pabot y Cwm (834827)
- 7.25 Gwylwyl (125852)
- 8.00 Eryd a'r Chwyl (4952)
- 8.30 Newyddion (5089)
- 9.00 Frankie Kingdoms: Going Ape (3933)
- 10.00 Brookside (373730)
- 10.30 Dark Skies (505852)
- 11.30 Northern Exposure (751914)
- 12.25am-1.30 Hill Street Blues (5530605)
- 4.00 Yagellon (9943228)

### 10.05 Dance with a Stranger (1985) with Miranda Richardson and Rupert Everett.

- A drama about the events that led to Ruth Ellis becoming the last woman in Britain to be hanged for murder. Directed by Mike Newell (7406652)

### 11.55 Film Night Presented by Janice Forsyth from the Cannes Film Festival (204881)

- 12.40am Anne (1987) with Sally Kirkland and Pauline Pollock. A Czech version of All About Eve, directed by Yurek Bogayevicz (340382)

### 2.30 Audacious A young wife becomes bored with her husband's bedroom behaviour (7406652)

- 3.00 Riders of Destiny (1933, b/w). A John Wayne western in which he helps farmers robbed of their land. Directed by George North (1698044)

### 3.55 Terrytoons (5526904)

- 4.00 Schools (7406652)
- 5.15 Pêcheurs à Cheval (b/w) Belgium's horseback fishermen (7406652)
- 5.25-6.00 Backdate (7406652)

### CARTOON NETWORK

- Non-stop cartoons from 5.00am to 6.00am. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones.



